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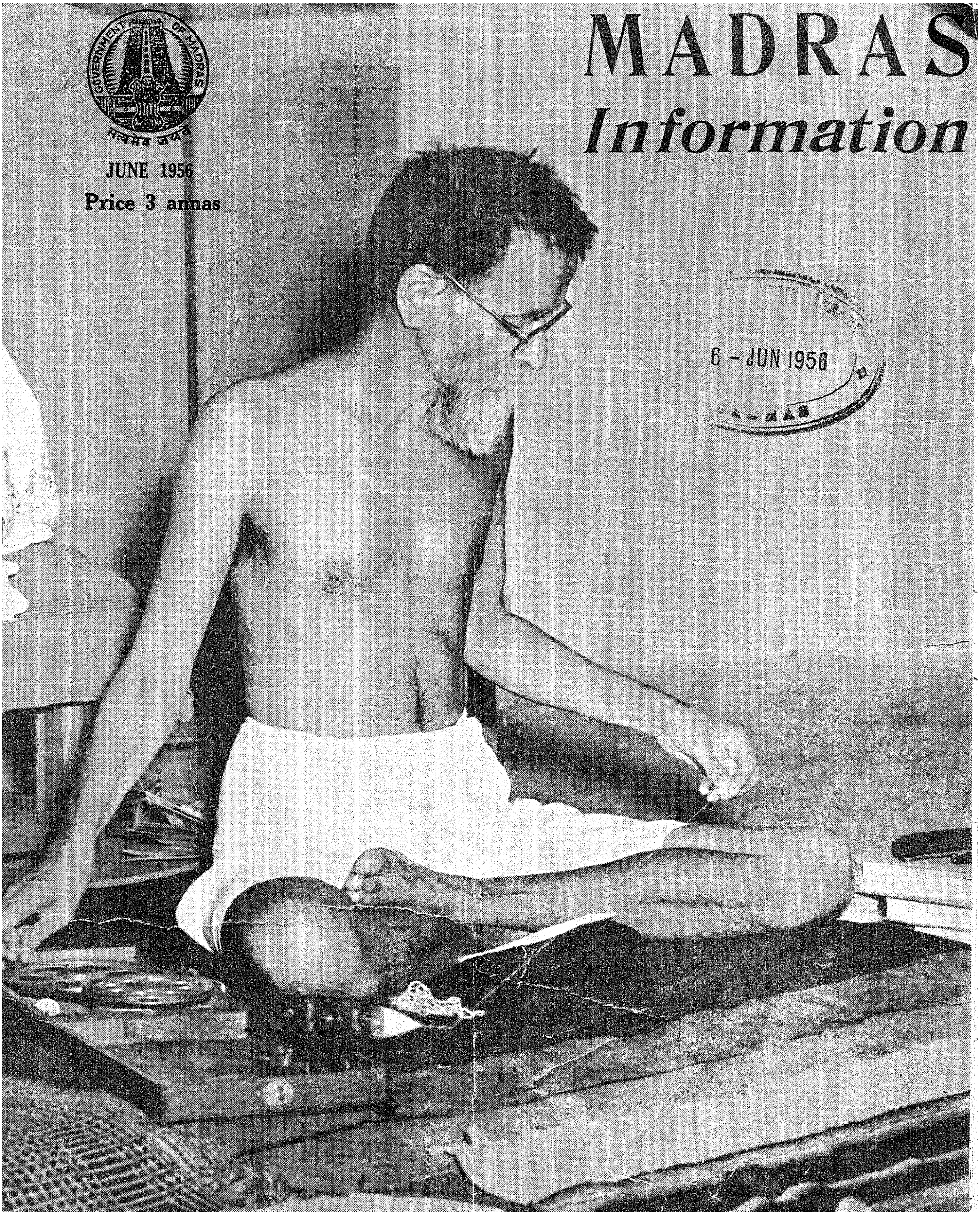

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The Controller of Stationery and Printing, No. 166, Mount Road, Madras, and all authorized agents of Government publications.

Registered No. M-4767.

PRINTED BY THE SUPERINTENDENT, GOVERNMENT PRESS, MADRAS, AND EDITED AND PUBLISHED BY THE DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION AND PUBLICITY, GOVERNMENT OF MADRAS

Madras Information

Published every month by the Director of Information and Publicity
Fort St. George

Vol. X, No. 6 "WE SEEK TO SERVE AND NOT TO COMPETE" June 1956

6 - JUN 1956

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Rice Breeding

Smiling green paddy fields, fringed vith palm trees, are a common sight in Eastern India. A source of inspiration always to the poets, painters and philosophers, they produce the much needed rice on which a major part of the food economy of the country rests. In several remote villages of India paddy and rice still serve as a medium of exchange among the people.

The all-India final estimate of rice for 1955–56 puts the current year's area and production of the crop at 76,253,000 acres and 25,474,000 tons as against the partially revised estimate of 75,949,000 acres and 24,531,000 tons, respectively, for 1954–55. This shows an increase of 304,000 acres or 0·4 per cent in area and 943,000 tons or 3·8 per cent in production during the current year. Reliance on improved varieties of paddy, better fertilizer practices and improved technique have contributed to the increased yield and near self- sufficiency in rice. India is taking rapidly to the Japanese method of paddy cultivation. Under the Japanese pattern of farm, the service of modern science is utilized for making the small farm as technically efficient as possible.

On the Second Cover Page

Glorious Avenue Trees

Our History, our old Literature and our religions all indicate that we were highly tree-conscious people.

During the last few hundred years, however, this consciousness almost disappeared. There are many indications to show that, such as naked hill-sides, frequencies of seasonal floods, formation of deep ravines along the banks of several rivers—Jamuna, Chambal and Narbada to name a few—and the advance of Rajasthan desert towards the Gangetic plains along a front of over 100 miles.

Along the national highways too—there are glorious exceptions such as the tree-lined Mysore highway in the picture—it is painful to see huge trees planted forty to fifty years back dead or dying because of the vandalism of goat-herds wanting to feed their flocks of goats or people looking for firewood.

However, through the annual Vana Mahotsavas (started in 1950) and the concerted efforts of States and the Union Ministry of Food and Agriculture, once again tree consciousness and love of forests is being developed. More and more people are realizing that the climate, the trees, the land, its protection from visitations of floods, and its fertility and those who live on it are a single and inseparable organism.

Over Rs. 24 crores will be spent under the Second Five-Year Plan for the development of the country's forest wealth. This will lead to afforestation of six-lakh acres and development of new plantations over an area of three-lakh acres.

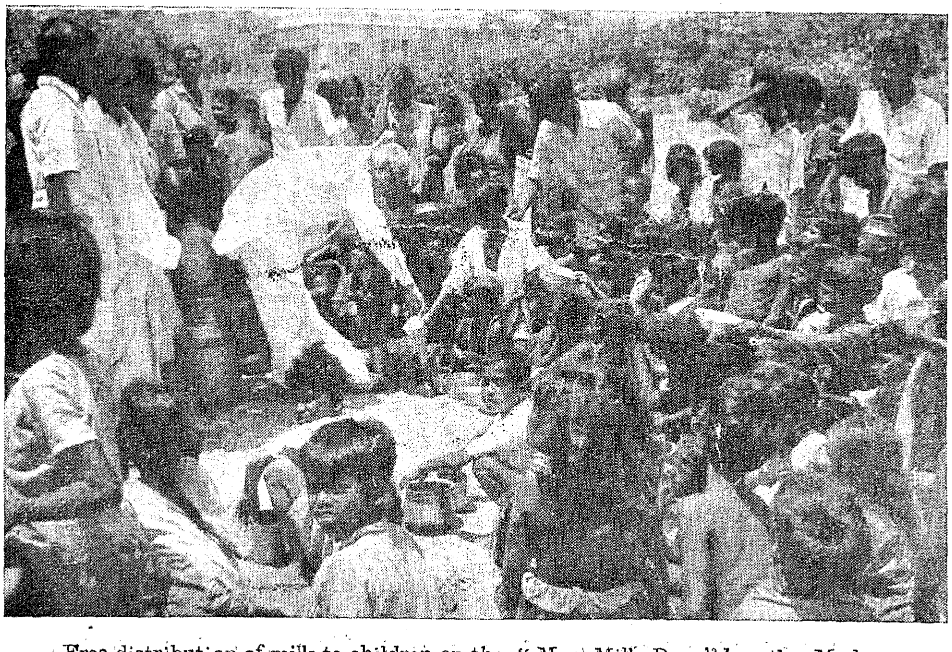
1 - JUN 1956

News and Notes

More Milk Day Celebrated

More Milk Day was celebrated this year for the second time on 13th April 1956, the Tamil New Year's Day, on a large scale in the City of Madras and in all the districts of the State with the active co-operation of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, President of the Madras Co-operative Milk Supply Union, Ayanavaram, Commissioner, Corporation of Madras and the Collectors of the Districts. The present report is about the celebration in Madras City. Considerable publicity was given regarding the celebration through the Press, wall-posters, handbills and the All-India Radio. The staff of the Veterinary Department, the milk supply unions and the sanitary staff of the Corporation of Madras gave wide publicity through personal contact with individual co-operative societies, milk producers in the City and the public.

The Madras Co-operative Milk Supply Union had arranged for the free supply of milk to the school children at 12 centres of the City wherein very important personages had distributed the milk. The Government Milk Factory at Teynampet supplied 4,000 lb. of toned milk to the Corporation authorities for distribution to the school children and the child welfare and health centres in the City. Kesava Pillai Park, Choolai, was the main centre of attraction on that day where more than 3,000 school children were supplied with free milk with the active co-operation of the Health Officer, Corporation of Madras, Deputy Director of Animal Husbandry (Key Villages) and the Special Officer for Milk. Thirty-nine child welfare and health centres were also supplied with milk for distribution simultaneously. In all nearly 10,000 children were supplied with milk by the Corporation authorities. As usual milk supply for the school children was arranged at the Raj Bhavan School. Due to the unexpected indisposition of the Governor, the Director of Animal Husbandry distributed the milk to the school children with the co-operation of the Governor's Household staff. A variety entertainment was given by the school children on the usefulness of the milk which was very much appreciated.



Free distribution of milk to children on the "More Milk Day" by the Madras Co-operative Milk Supply Union. The Mayor of Madras distributes at Kuppam.

A cattle show was organized by the department of Animal Husbandry at the S.I.A.A. grounds on the 12th itself. The Show was well represented and different breeds of milch cattle, cows, heifers and calves and breeding bulls and calves born through artificial insemination process were brought by cattle owners as exhibits. Judging of the exhibits was done by the officers of the Animal Husbandry department and prizes were awarded to the owners of the best exhibits in different classes on the 13th by the Minister for Agriculture.

In conjunction with the More Milk Day Celebrations, an exhibition was organized on the verandah of the Rajaji Hall. The Dairy Section of the Madras Veterinary College, the dairy section of the Co-operative Milk Supply Union, Ayanavaram, the Vulcan Trading Company who are dealers in dairy machineries, the propaganda section of the Animal Husbandry Department and the Government Milk Factory displayed their exhibits. The public who attended the meeting at Rajaji Hall that evening went round the exhibition and evinced keen interest in the modern methods of dairying, equipment, etc.

A symposium on milk in English was released on this day and about 500 copies of the symposium were distributed to the public. Apart from this reprints from *Mezhichelvam* on the important aspects of dairying were also issued to the public. Copies of 'Dairy Farming as a Cottage Industry' in Tamil written by the Director of Animal Husbandry were made available to the public.

(*Continued on page* 7)

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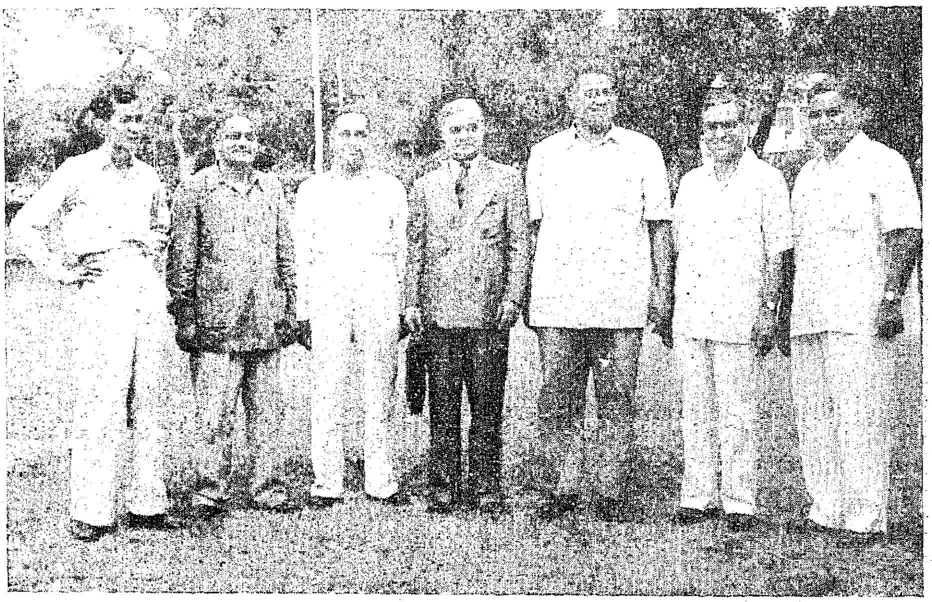
Community Project Study Team

A team consisting of officials in charge of Community Development Programme in India has commenced its study tour abroad on 20th April 1956. The team consists of Sri A. D. Boara, Director of Training, Community Projects Administration, New Delhi; Sri H. N. Thakur, Deputy Development Commissioner, Bihar; Sri L. S. Ingty, Project Executive Officer, Assam; Sri Mahabir Prasad, Irrigation Adviser, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, New Delhi; and Sri P. D. Shukla, Ministry of Education, New Delhi. Sri Zahir Ahmed, Development Commissioner, Hyderabad State, will be the leader of the team. The first study tour arranged by the Community Projects Administration, it may be recalled, was in January 1956 and the members visited Middle East and a few countries in Europe.

The study team, the second of its kind arranged by the Government of India, will visit Indonesia, Phillippines, Japan and United States of America and spend nearly 10 weeks in studying the various development projects with special reference to rural areas. The members of the party had a discussion with Sri N. E. S. Raghavachari, I.C.S., Additional Development Commissioner, Madras State, before they left for Singapore on 20th forenoon.



Members of the team with Sri N. E. S. Raghavachari, I.C.S., Additional Development Commissioner, Madras, during their brief stay in Madras on their way to Singapore.

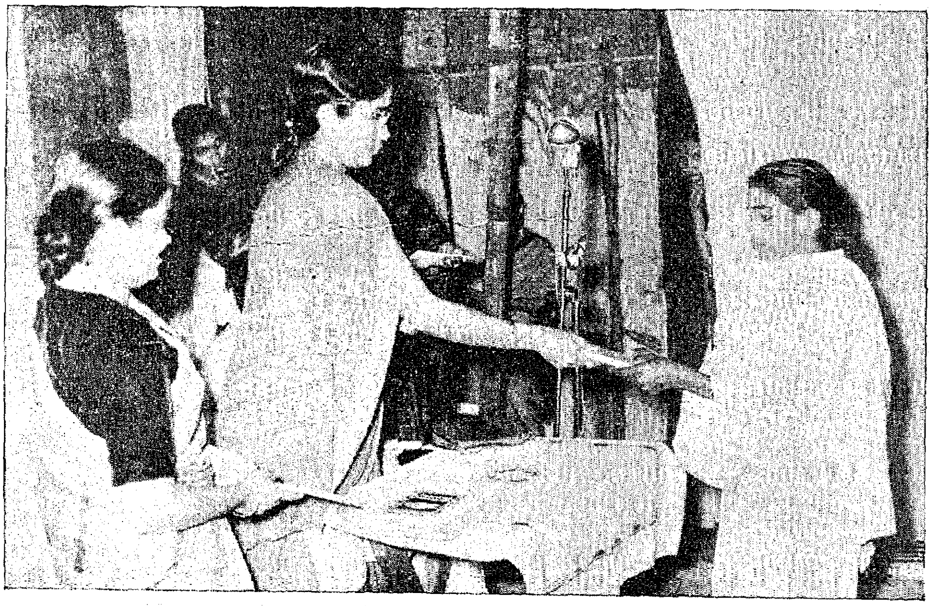
Facts and Figures

The Government of India have so far built 645 colonies exclusively for displaced persons from East Pakistan. Sanction has also been given for 90 training schemes and 41 medium, small and cottage industries in these colonies.

There are at present about 36,000 basic schools and 250,000 ordinary primary schools in India.

India exported 320,816 birds valued at Rs. 4,83,555 during 1955-56.

The Area under rubber cultivation in India increased to 215,726 acres by the end of last year from 176,647 acres in December 1954.

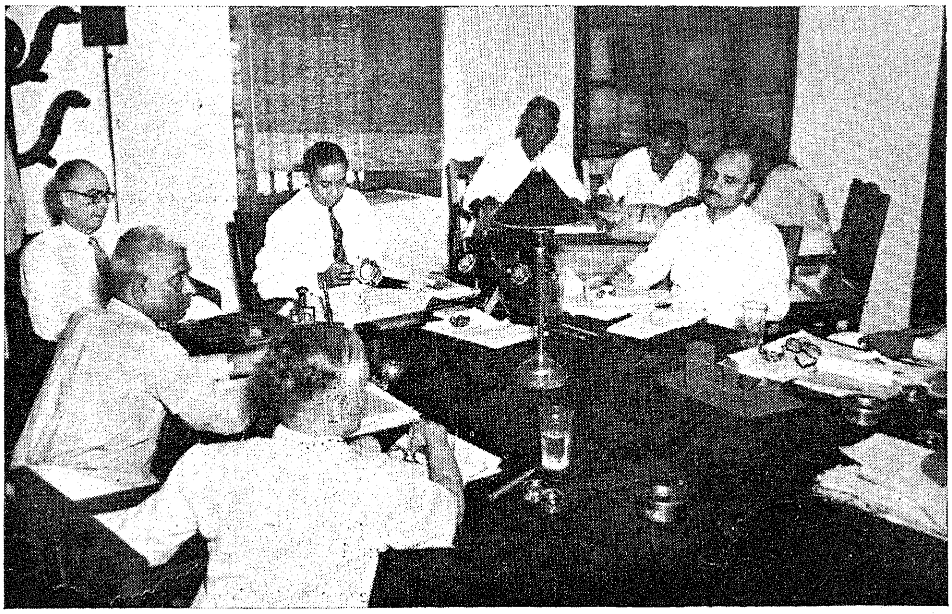


Srimathi Sarojini Varadappan, distributing prizes to the inmates of the Service Home at the Annual Day celebrations.

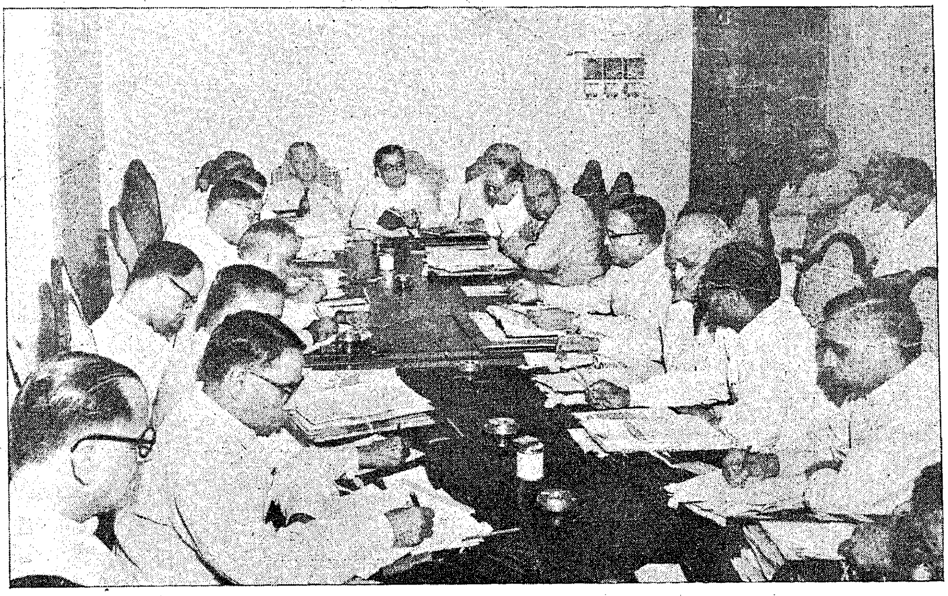
Intensive Manuring (Sugarcane) Scheme

The Government have directed that the loans under the Intensive Manuring (Sugarcane) Scheme during 1956-57 be sanctioned and disbursed by the Revenue Department with effect from June 1, 1956.

It may be recalled that the Government had earlier ordered the transfer of the work relating to the sanction and disbursement of loans under the Intensive Manuring Scheme to the Revenue Department.



Superintendents of Government Presses in South India met recently in conference at Madras.



The Conference of General Managers of Indian Railways in New Delhi.

Development of Khadi Industry:

The Government of India have sanctioned to the All-India Khadi and Village Industries Board grants, totalling about Rs. 32,94,500 and a loan of Rs. 75,000 for the development of the khadi industry.

Of this amount, a sum of Rs. 15 lakhs is to be utilized for providing subsidies to institutions and centres on their increased production and retail sales of khadi. A subsidy of ½ anna in a rupee will be given to all khadi while another subsidy at the same rate will be given to institutions and centres on their production and retail sales of khadi not exceeding Rs. 32,000 in a year. The second subsidy which will be in addition to the first, will be paid only to such institutions and centres which have shown an increase of 10 per cent in their production and retail sales of khadi as compared with those of 1955.

A sum of Rs. 5 lakhs is for the implementation of the Vastraswavalamban (cloth self-sufficiency) scheme during the current financial year. The amount is to be utilized for providing rebate on weaving charges incurred by the self-spinners and subsidy to recognized institutions for khadi woven by them under the scheme. A sum of Rs. 3 lakhs is for the expenditure on organizing peripatetic parties to train people in spinning and weaving. An expenditure of Rs. 1 lakh has been sanctioned for payment of honorarium for promoting hand-spinning in all parts of the country. A sum of Rs. 79,200 is to be utilized for conducting spinning classes in jails and children's and beggars' reformatories during the current financial year.

The Board has been given a grant of Rs. 2½ lakhs for subsidizing half of the cost of implements and accessories required for the development of the khadi industry through the Khaddar bhandars and centres recognized by the Board. A loan of Rs. 75,000 and a grant of Rs. 1½ lakhs are for the development of the khadi industry on intensive basis. The amounts are to be distributed to co-operative societies and registered bodies for meeting the cost of construction of godowns at 15 centres in various parts of the country.

A grant of Rs. 1½ lakhs has been given for the revival of arts such as khes weaving, Sambalpur curtain weaving, kani shawl, fine yarn spinning, kalamkari printing and patola weaving.

For conducting research in khadi, a sum of Rs. 1½ lakhs has been placed at the disposal of the Board for being distributed to individuals or institutions.

A sum of Rs. 50,000 is to be utilized for payment of honorarium to workers engaged in the sale of khadi under agency system. An expenditure of Rs. 35,250 has been sanctioned for training in khadi salesmanship. A sum of Rs. 30,000 is for the purchase of khadi samples and for processing them.

Training Facilities in Government Institutions

According to the scheme for providing facilities for training scientific workers employed in laboratories maintained by the trade or private manufacturers, in Government research institutions, for achieving co-ordination and uniformity of standards, the next courses will be begin on July 1, 1956, at the following institutions :—

1 The Central Research Institute, Kasauli.

2 The Central Drugs Laboratory, Calcutta.

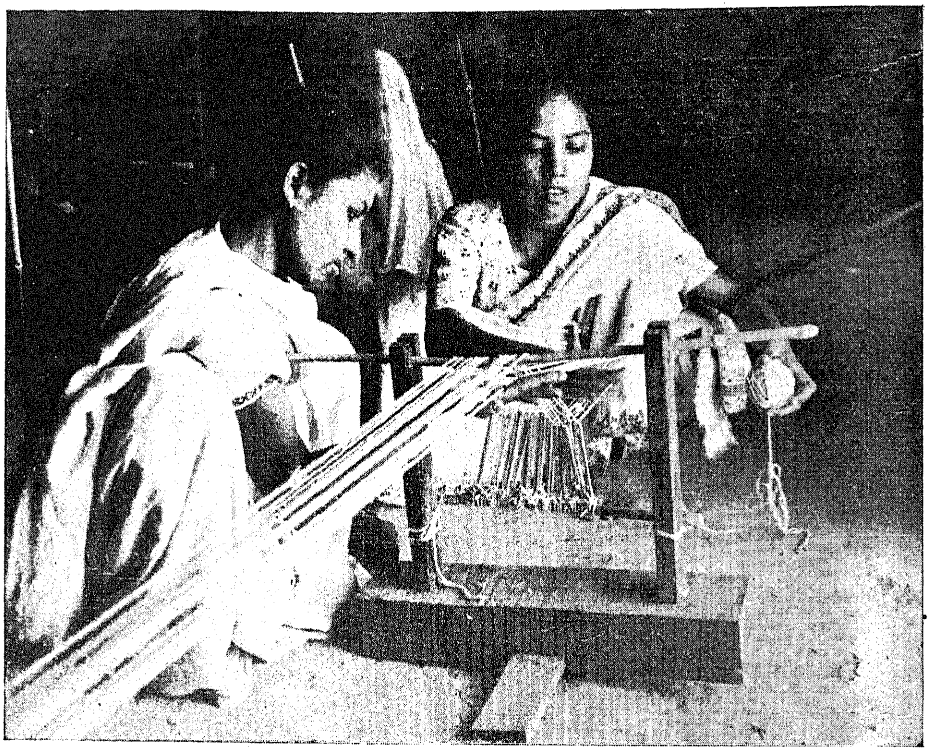
3 The Haffkine Institute, Bombay.

4 The King Institute, Guindy.

5 The Institute of Science, Bombay.

6 The Veterinary Research Institute, Mukteswar.

A fee of Rs. 100, payable in advance, will be charged from each candidate for the training. Applications for admission to these courses, accompanied by a treasury receipt for Rs. 7-8-0 credited under the head "XXVII-Medical—Miscellaneous" should reach the Director-General of Health Services, New Delhi, by May 31, 1956.



The Kasturba Trust Gram Sevika Centre at Waini in Muzaffarpur district, Bihar, trains Gram Sevikas for the Central Social Welfare Board's Rural Welfare Programme.

Instruction in a craft by a trained craft teacher is accompanied by practical training in the craft.

Revision of Electoral Rolls

The electoral rolls for the Assembly constituencies are being revised this year on the basis of the new constituencies as determined by the Delimitation Commission and it will be these new rolls that will be used for the General Elections due in 1957. The preliminary electoral rolls for the new constituencies in the districts of Chingleput, North Arcot, South Arcot, Salem, Coimbatore, The Nilgiris, South Kanara, Malabar and Tirunelveli in respect of areas where no house-to-house enquiry was instituted are now being published. (A further announcement will be made about the publication of the rolls in other areas later.) The publication is being made by constituencies in the office of the Electoral Registration Officer concerned, viz., the Tahsildar or Deputy Tahsildar in cases where his office lies within the constituency and at a place within the constituency selected by him if his office lies outside the constituency. The electoral roll will be made available for inspection at the above places and notices to this effect will be displayed. The electoral roll for each unit, that is, for each village and class II panchayat and for each convenient locality or block in other areas, will also be made available for inspection in the local unit; and the notice of publication will also be displayed in the offices of class I Panchayats, Municipalities, Cantonments and Townships.

2. Persons qualified for inclusion in the rolls but who have not been so included are invited to put in their claims for such inculsion and any voter may prefer objection to the inclusion of any person's name in the roll or to any particular in any entry in the roll. A person is qualified for inclusion in the electoral rolls if he or she is an Indian citizen and was not less than 21 years of age on the 1st March 1956 and resided or owned or possessed a dwelling house in the local area on that date and is not otherwise disqualified for such registration.

3. Claims should be made in the printed Form IV and objections in Form V available free of charge with the Electoral Registration Officers and also village officers, Firka Revenue Inspectors, Executive Officers of Class I Panchayats, Cantonment Boards and Townships and Commissioners of Municipalities. The claims and objections should be presented to the Revising Authority (viz., the Revenue Divisional Officer) or to the Electoral Registration Officer, or to the Officers mentioned above, or sent by post to the Revising Authority, not later than the date specified in the notice displayed for preliminary publication which will be 21 days after the date of such

A reception was given by the Prime Minister, Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, Chairman of the Sahitya Akadami, in New Delhi, to meet prominent writers in all major languages of India who are in the Capital in connection with the Radio Literary Forum.

Photo shows Mr. Faiz Ahmad Faiz, a Pakistani journalist and Urdu poet, who was one of the invitees, reciting some of the poems composed by him at the Prime Minister's reception.

More Milk Day

(*Continued from page* 3)

A public meeting was organized by the President of the Co-operative Milk Supply Union at Rajaji Hall on the evening of 13th April 1956. The Minister for Agriculture presided over the meeting in the unavoidable absence of the Governor due to indisposition and it was inaugurated by the Minister Sri A. B. Shetty, Minister for Health. Sri A. Palaniappa Mudaliar, Registrar of Co-operative Societies, and the Director of Animal Husbandry addressed the gathering on the various aspects of milk and livestock improvement in the State. It was emphasized that the Government have formulated several schemes for the development of dairy industry to be worked during the Second Plan period and with the co-operation of the public the Government would implement those schemes for increased production of milk in the State.

Prizes were awarded to the best exhibits selected at the Cattle Show held on 12th April 1956 by the Minister for Agriculture. A variety entertainment organized by the President of the Co-operative Milk Supply Union was well attended.

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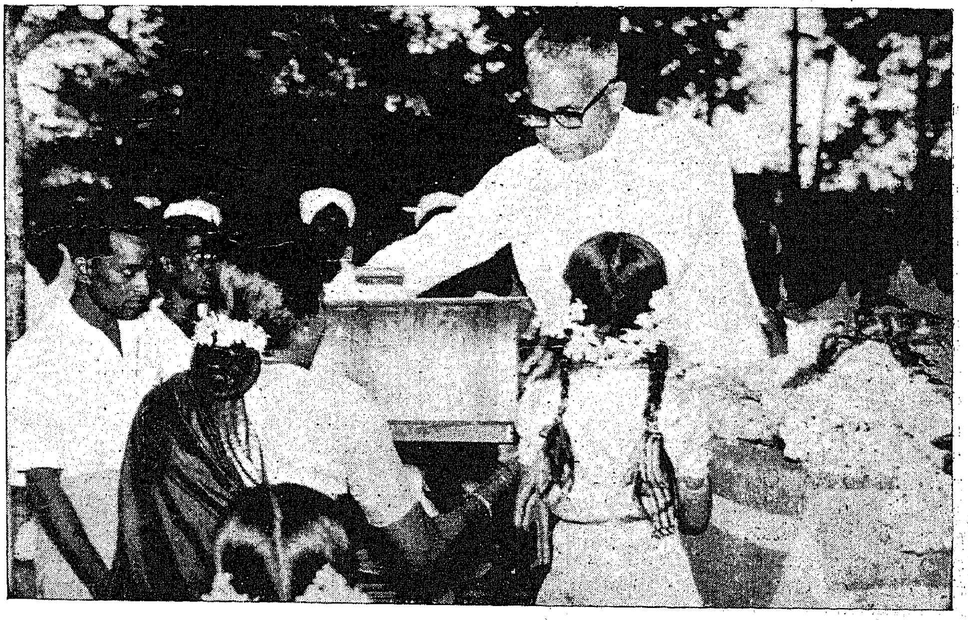
publication. A claim should be signed by the claimant and unless it is sent by post, it should be presented by him personally or by an authorized agent.

A person desiring transfer of his name from the electoral roll of one local unit to another should prefer an objection to the inclusion of his name in the former roll and a separate claim for the registration of his name in the latter roll.

In cases requiring corrections of any entries in the roll such as wrong information about fathers' or husbands' name, spelling mistakes, printing errors and obvious clerical mistakes, it is sufficient if they are brought to the notice of the Electoral Registration Officer by a letter.

4. The Revising Authority will hold a summary inquiry into each claim or objection at the place and on the date notified to the claimant or objector who should attend the hearing with the evidence, which he wishes to adduce in support of his case. With reference to the order of the Revising Authority on the claims and objections, the final lists of amendments will be prepared and the electoral rolls will be finally published. The final electoral rolls for the new constituencies will come into force immediately on such publication.



Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam, Minister for Agriculture, presenting a sewing machine to the Women's Welfare Association of Sriperumbudur.

6 - JUN 1958

Agricultural Topics

Tackling Soil Erosion

To-day Soil Conservation is recognized as a problem of national importance as it is one of the basic factors for intelligent land use and for conservation of the irrigation sources. Soil erosion has been a locally acute problem here and there for many decades ; but as a widespread evil, it has been recognized only in recent times. This was due to the mounting demand for more and more land for cultivation which has led people to break up land on slopes and vulnerable sites causing serious erosion. Under the drive for increased food production, wood lands and marginal lands were stripped of their vegetal cover, and brought under the plough for indiscriminate cultivation. This trend resulted in intensive cultivation of potatoes on steep slopes in the Nilgiris, often without safeguards to prevent erosion of the soil. Erosion has, in consequence, become a serious menace particularly in the Nilgiris.

Legislation against Erosion

The Government have since passed the Madras Hill Stations (Preservation of Trees) Act, 1955, into law. This Act empowers the Government to regulate the cutting of trees and the cultivation of land on hill slopes. While cultivation on land with a slope of more than one in three for any purpose other than the growing of trees has been totally prohibited, no person can use any land with a slope of less than one in three for new cultivation except with the previous permission of the Collector, who may, while granting such permission, impose such conditions as he may deem fit including those relating to Soil Conservation measures. Existing cultivators on lands with a slope of less than one in three have also been given one year's time from the date of coming into force of the Act to adopt the prescribed Soil Conservation measures to qualify themselves for obtaining the necessary permission from the Collector to carry on the cultivation. This Act, it should however be remembered, is applicable only to the municipal areas of certain Hill Stations like Ootacamund and Coonoor, and the problem of preventing tree cutting and the opening of steep slopes in other areas still remains to be solved. Further, prevention of denudation of vegetal cover is only one aspect of the problem of Soil Conservation. The other preventive measures are contour-bunding, trenching, terracing, gully plugging and strip cropping, which have all got to be enforced. We were therefore considering whether the Madras Land Improvement Schemes (Contour Bunding and Contour Trenching) Act, 1949, could be suitably amended to serve all these purposes but we have been advised that neither tree cutting nor other agronomical practices can be brought within the ambit of the existing Act. This Act, besides, is found to be cumbersome and defective in some respects. It has therefore been considered necessary to replace the existing Act by a suitable comprehensive legislation on Soil Conservation. The Central Soil Conservation Board has prepared a model Soil Conservation Bill in consultation with the Central Law Ministry and has asked all State Governments to adopt this Bill or to make suitable amendments to the existing State Acts on Soil Conservation. The Model Bill contemplates the constitution of a State Land Improvement Board and District Land Improvement Committees on a statutory basis and conferring on them certain powers in the matter of preparation, approval and execution of Soil Conservation works. All these are far-reaching provisions.

From the speech of the Minister for Agriculture.

I would however like to emphasize that however perfect legislation on this subject might be, nothing tangible could ever be achieved unless there is a deep public awareness of the dangers of the situation and the duty we owe to ourselves and to posterity of keeping the soil inviolate and at the highest potential of productivity.

Achievements under the First Five-Year Plan

Let me now turn to a brief consideration of the projects for Soil conservation which we undertook during the First Five-Year Plan and those under contemplation for the Second Plan. In the First Five-Year Plan a provision of Rs. 29·81 lakhs was made to tackle an approximate area of about 72,000 acres. But the actual expenditure has been only Rs. 6·30 lakhs and the physical achievement about 15,750 acres. The work was mainly in Ketty Valley, Nanjanad, Kammandhu in the Nilgiri district and Mulanur in Coimbatore district. Work in Kothamangalam in the Lower Bhavani area and Kangayam and Vellakoil has recently been started and preliminary work on the comprehensive Nilgiri Scheme has been begun. Various reasons have been put forward for the slow progress in the First Five-Year Plan, the chief among them being the lack of trained personnel. We have since taken steps to train in advance the required number of personnel at the Training Centres established by the Government of India in the various regions of the country. Another factor that was responsible for the poor achievement was the time involved in correspondence for obtaining the sanction of the Central Soil Conservation Board and the Government of India. I have pointed this out at the meeting of the State Agricultural Ministers held at Delhi last month and the need for evolving a simple procedure so that the works might be expedited, and we are awaiting the decision of the Government of India in the matter.

In the Second Five-Year Plan.

In the Second Five-Year Plan, we have made a provision of Rs. 167·71 lakhs on the agricultural side to tackle an approximate area of 25,000 acres in the Nilgiris, 1,250 acres in the Kodaikanals and about 35,560 acres in the plains in the Coimbatore, Salem, South Arcot, North Arcot, Tiruchirappalli, Malabar, Chingleput and Tirunelveli districts. On the forest side, we have made a provision of Rs. 118·08 lakhs for reclamation of eroded ex-panchayat reserved forests by afforestation, extension of casuarina plantations to help stabilization of sand dunes and to prevent valuable agricultural lands from being bogged up by blown-up sterile sand, and afforestation of low hill areas to prevent loss of soil. If the progress in future is going to be at the same rate as it has hitherto been, at the end of five years we may find that we have done little to solve this problem. It is therefore necessary that we should apply our mind to the various difficulties which retarded or impaired the progress during the First Five-Year Plan and take suitable steps and adopt methods by which quick results could be achieved. The first essential for speedy execution is a proper survey of the areas and preparation of detailed scheme reports. The next is the employment of competent and energetic officers who must know their job and every bit of the area tackled. Above all, is the need for previous propaganda to educate the ryots. In as much as these are community projects in the real sense of the term, business like methods in administration, proper maintenance of accounts and efficient supervision are necessary so that the works may not be shabbily done and the ryots' money is not wasted. I hope that everyone concerned from the top-most officer down to the lowest maistry will keep these things in mind.

Importance of Soil Conservation

The importance attached to Soil Conservation will be evident from the fact that the Planning Commission has made a provision for all-India of Rs. 26·83 crores in the Second Plan against a provision of Rs. 3·25 crores for the First Plan. The Union Ministry of Food and Agriculture convened an *ad hoc* meeting at Delhi of the State Ministers in charge of Soil Conservation during the end of last month to take stock of the situation and consider the various problems. You would have no doubt read from the papers the proceedings of that meeting. The problem is gigantic and people's co-operation is vital. Although legislation will be essential in certain cases to enforce Soil Conservation measures, by and large it is the willing co-operation of the farmers and the availability of a large body of trained personnel that will make it possible to carry on the programme to a successful conclusion. As a first step in this direction we have already imparted training to the Village Officers and Revenue Inspectors in the Nilgiris and taken steps to train the Village Officers, Revenue Inspectors, Gram Sevaks, Assistant Project Officers, Block Development Officers in the Coimbatore district so that these persons who are in daily contact with the ryots may pass on their knowledge and create the necessary awakening in the minds of the farmers. A scheme for the training of 100 ryots in the Nilgiris in Soil Conservation has also been sanctioned recently. The Government of India have also under consideration proposals for effective propaganda and publicity on Soil Conservation, in order to educate the ryots on the correct land-use practices. The question of asking the Government of India to start a Soil Conservation Demonstration Centre near Kotagiri besides the Pilot Schemes at Ootacamund, Nanjanad and Kammandhu is under consideration. Let us hope that with all these measures we shall be able to arouse public consciousness against the misuse of land and the proper conservation of our crop lands, forest and low hill areas and above all the catchment areas of our rivers and streams. Let it be remembered that erosion annually removes probably about twenty times the plant food in soil as all the crops grown in the State take away. Millions of tons of soil are discharged into the rivers and streams and finally into river dams or to the sea. While you travelled to Ootacamund you might have noticed the muddy waters of the Coonoor and Kallar rivers that finally reach the Bhavanisagar carrying away tons of soil. Similar losses are occurring everywhere at every rainfall and this continuous soil wash profits no one but is on the other hand a menace to our irrigation works. Millions of tons of plant food are thus lost and, estimated at the current fertilizer prices, the loss would be colossal and staggering. Our agriculture cannot withstand such losses indefinitely. Much of this loss is preventable as we now know and the destructive tide must be stemmed. Erosion strikes at the root of our prosperity. It is a problem of the farmer, the forester, the builder of waterways and reservoirs and in fact of every thinking citizen. In large part it is a problem for the Community, the State and the Nation. In the permanent improvement of our agricultural production and livestock, and of our waterways and of our forests and to maintain an industrial economy which we hope to build up, our efforts must begin on the land. Men may come and go, our crops may perish by drought or storm, our livestock may die, but the land of our country never dies. Let us save it from impoverishment which is worse than death and thus save ourselves. That way lies wisdom.

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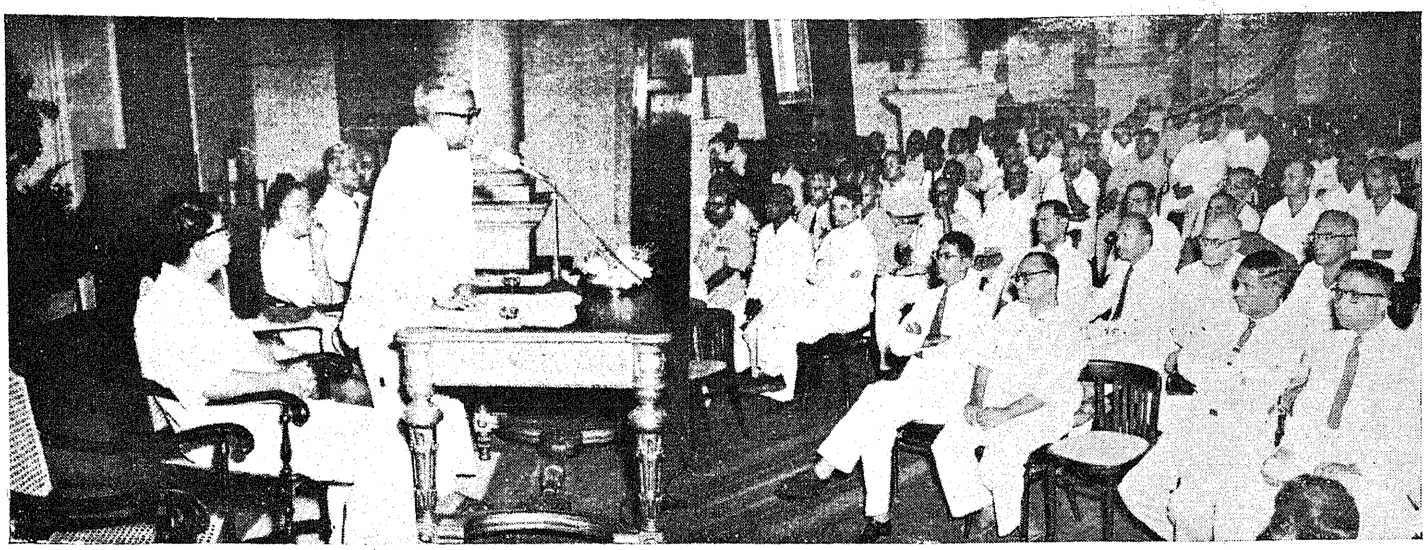

Sri M. Bhaktavatsalam, Minister for Agriculture, inaugurating the Seminar for Extension Officers for Agriculture and Animal Husbandry at the Rajaji Hall on 15th May 1956.

Improving Agricultural Production

SRI N. E. S. RAGHAVACHARI, I.C.S., Additional Development Commissioner.

The Fifth Development Commissioners' Conference on Community Projects was held at Nainital from the 5th to the 7th May. It may be recalled that the first Community Projects were started in 1952 and the National Extension Service in 1953. It has been the practice for the Development Commissioners of all the States in India who are charged with the implementation of the Community Project and National Extension Service Programmes to meet once a year to discuss the working of the programme, suggest improvements and generally to exchange experiences. The four previous conferences were presided over by Sri V. T. Krishnamachari, Deputy Chairman, Planning Commission, who may be considered to be the father of the Community Development and the National Extension Service Programmes in India. Unfortunately he would not preside over this conference due to ill-health and Sri Sampurnanand, Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh, presided.

Before this conference there was a meeting of the National Development Council at Delhi on the 1st and 2nd May. The Council consists of Chief Ministers of all the States, the Union Ministers dealing with Development departments and is presided over by the Prime Minister. I had the previlege of attending the meeting of this Council and listening to the proceedings.

One of the important questions discussed at the National Development Council was how agricultural production could be improved through the agency of the National Extension Service and Community Development programme. As you know the total cost of the Second Five-Year Plan is in excess of the total resources which the Government can realise. The Government are, however, determined to implement the programme through deficit financing in the hope that later as the national income of the country increases this deficit can be made up. But if this plan is to be successfully implemented, it is important that the prices of important commodities are not allowed to rise over the present level. The Prime Minister was very much disturbed by the rising trend of increase in prices, particularly of food-stuffs. He was of the view and it was endorsed by all the Chief Ministers, that if the plan is to succeed, there should be an increase in agricultural production, so that the prices are kept at a steady level. While the plan provided for an increase in production by 15 per cent, it was considered that this should be stepped up to 40 per cent. The Prime Minister pointed out that the average yield per acre was very low in India when compared with other countries and he felt that if the agriculturist in India is determined to increase his production and works hard it should be possible to increase the production by 40 per cent.

In the N.E.S. and Community Development programme, we have Grama Sevaks who are trained in agriculture. If they concentrate on the agricultural aspect and convince the ryot that the yield from his land can be increased by adopting improved methods, there should be no difficulty in achieving the target of 40 per cent increase in agricultural production.

This important question of improving agricultural production was one of the important subjects which was later considered by the Development Commissioners' Conference. The Development Commissioners were unanimous that it would be possible to increase the production to the target aimed at. There was a general feeling that at present the Grama Sevak who is

specially trained in agriculture, does not devote sufficient attention to this important problem. Very often he devotes more attention to the provision of amenities like roads, wells, etc. In carrying out the programme of amenities he spends a lot of time on the selection of works, assisting in the collection of contributions and ensuring the prompt execution of works by the local institutions. While the importance of the works programme was not to be minimised, the general feeling was that the works programme is to be treated only as a supplement to the production programme. One section even felt that by reducing the allotment for works, the Block Development staff would probably concentrate more on production. The Development Commissioners were unanimously of the view that if the Grama Sevak concentrates on agriculture and convinces the ryot that his production can be increased by adopting improved methods, there should be no difficulty in achieving the target of 40 per cent increase in agricultural production.

Another important problem facing the Development Commissioners was the revision of the block budgets so as to keep the total expenditure to the sum of Rs. 200 rores allotted by the Planning Commission as against the estimated cost of Rs. 260 crores. In considering this problem the Development Commissioners were guided by a number of important factors. Firstly, the decision already taken by the National Development Council that the entire country should be covered by the N.E.S. programme during the period of the Second Plan should stand. Secondly, about 40 per cent of the N.E.S. blocks should be converted into Community Development blocks during the second year. This programme of conversion should be so phased that no N.E.S. block which has worked for a full period of three years will remain unconverted, provided that it reaches the level of performance suitable for such conversion.

Based on these considerations the Development Commissioners' Conference agreed to a revision in the budgets for the National Extension Service and Community Development blocks. At present a N.E.S. block has a budget of Rs. 7½ lakhs for a period of three years. Of this a sum of Rs. 3 lakhs is for provision of short-term loans, 1 lakh for loans for minor irrigation and 3½ lakhs for establishment, social education, grants-in-aid and local works. Under the new budget only a sum of Rs. 2·8 lakhs will be available for establishment, local works, etc., Rs. 60,000 for loans for irrigation and Rs. 60,000 for construction of staff quarters. The total comes to Rs. 4 lakhs and besides this it is expected that the present level of Rs. 3 lakhs for short-term credit will be provided through the Reserve Bank. The total budget for a Community Development block has now been reduced from Rs. 15 lakhs to 12 lakhs. This reduction has been effected by the reduction of the loan provision of 7½ lakhs to Rs. 4½ lakhs. The amount allotted for non-loan items remains the same, namely, Rs. 7½ lakhs. It should, however, be noted that when a N.E.S. block is converted into a Community Development block, the expenditure already incurred in the N.E.S. stage is deducted from the budget of the Community Development block. The revised budget will come into effect from 1st April 1956, i.e., it will apply to all N.E.S. blocks taken up on 1st April 1956 and thereafter and also to all blocks converted from that date. It is expected that about 3,800 blocks will be taken up during the Second Five-Year Plan to cover the whole country and 1,120 of these blocks will be taken up for conversion as Community Development blocks. The probable figures for Madras are 315 N.E.S. blocks in the Second Five-Year Plan period out of which 123 will be taken up for conversion.

The Conference was also faced with the problem of keeping up the tempo of work in the Community Development blocks which will have completed their period of operation. These will become permanent N.E.S. blocks with the basic staff of the N.E.S. continuing in position. In addition to this the Conference recommended that there should be a provision of Rs. 25,000 for local works and Rs. 5,000 for social education per block per year.

I have already stated that the Conference emphasised the need for increase in agricultural production. Another important recommendation of the Conference was that village industries or cottage industries should be developed so as to provide for increased employment to the rural population. With increased agricultural production and increased opportunities for employment the standard of living of the villager will increase substantially during the period of the Second Five-Year Plan.

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SRI A. B. SHETTY, Minister for Health.

Most of our hospitals are obliged to admit patients in excess of their sanctioned bed strength. The hospital staff feel handicapped in their work on account of the extra burden thus thrown on their shoulders. Many of our hospital buildings are old and outmoded. The provision of medical relief has gone on in a haphazard way in the past. Large areas in the countryside are unserved by medical institutions and qualified practitioners. There is increasing demand for expansion of existing hospitals as well as for the establishment of new dispensaries and hospitals. Hereafter we must have planned development of hospital service. Recently, Tiruchirappalli and Kozhikode have had new hospitals built at their district headquarters. The headquarters hospitals at Mangalore are having a big building programme to make them suitable for teaching purposes. A new hospital building has been put up at Tuticorin and recently opened for use. Erode is being provided with a hospital at considerable cost, and it is now under construction. A bigger and better building on a different site is under construction for the R.S.R.M. Lying-in hospital in Madras City and the hospital is already functioning in the portions which have been completed. Additions and improvements are being made to the hospital at Madurai with a view to develop it into a full-fledged teaching institution. Provision has been made for additional buildings and equipment so as to improve some of the Madras City and mofussil hospitals.

Provision for new hospitals under Second Plan.

In the Second Five-Year Plan Rs. 121·81 lakhs have been provided for improvement of district headquarters hospitals and Rs. 123·21 lakhs for taluk headquarters hospitals. Seventy-five of the taluk headquarters hospitals have already been taken over by the Government from the local bodies. Six taluk hospitals including the one at Tirukkoilur are being taken over this year and the remaining twenty-one taluk hospitals will be provincialised within the next three years. Ninety rural dispensaries will come under Government during the Second Five-Year Plan period, beginning with eighteen this year. One hundred and forty health centres at the rate of 28 per year will be set up in the National Extension Service Blocks and 600 Maternity and Child-Welfare Centres at the rate of 120 each year will be established in rural areas during this Plan period.

In South Arcot, there are five Government hospitals with 284 beds, three Local fund hospitals with 40 beds, 17 Local Fund dispensaries and 28 Rural dispensaries. The District Tuberculosis Association has undertaken the construction of a Tuberculosis Sanatorium at Capper Hills near Cuddalore with the contributions obtained from various sources.

Leprosy Relief.

South Arcot is unfortunately the worst affected district in our State in regard to leprosy patients at our hospitals. Government have arranged to train 100 doctors in successive batches of six for a period of one week at the Central Leprosy Research and Teaching Institute at Tirumani, Chingleput, so that they may be better able to diagnose and treat cases of leprosy. A special Leprosy Scheme sponsored by the Government of India is functioning at Tirukkoilur. The Mission Home at Vadathorasalur provides accommodation for 299 leprosy patients and the Kasturba Gandhi Nivaran Nilayam has beds for 54 patients. The other schemes for leprosy relief in this district include a number of clinics which are run by the Hind Kushta Nivaran Sangh, the Kasturba Kushta Nivaran Nilayam and the Belgian Leprosy Unit. Sri T.N. Jagadisan, the indefatigable Secretary of the Hind Kushta Nivaran Sangh who has just returned from a meeting of the Sangh at Delhi has sent to Government a skeleton of a Comprehensive Leprosy Control Scheme which he has drawn up for this highly endemic district. If this scheme of mass sulphone therapy can be carried to every affected village in South Arcot and worked successfully, similar work can be adopted for endemic areas in other districts also and we may hope to realise the fond dream cherished by Sri Jagadisan of eradicating leprosy from this State within a measurable distance of time.

Improved facilities for Diagnosis and treatment.

There is need not only for more hospitals but also for better standard of work in our hospitals. Junior Medical Officers are now being given four or six months' training in batches in our Madras Teaching Hospitals in surgery, anæsthesia, radiology and pathology and they are being posted to district headquarters hospitals. Arrangements have been made for a similar course of training for women doctors, in obstetrics and gynæcology in Madras since there is a great need for such trained personnel in mofussil hospitals

Modern methods of treatment require early diagnosis by means of X-ray and laboratory tests. It is proposed to improve facilities for such diagnosis in the hospitals at all district centres. We are having certain special departments in the district hospitals, many of which are manned by honorary doctors. Medical men with specialist training are not available in sufficient numbers in many of the mofussil places. All district hospitals should have paid or honorary specialists for E.N.T., Eye, Tuberculosis, Pediatrics, Obstetrics and Gynæcology, V.D., Skin and Leprosy and Dental work. It seems necessary to give a short course of training in Dermatology and to have one assistant surgeon with special training in Orthopædics in each district headquarters hospital. Advice on family planning should be made available at all our hospitals.

The upgrading of the out-patient service

Our hospital service is over-weighted in favour of the in-patient. The out-patient clinics are generally small and too crowded for efficient work. The upgrading of the out-patient service, with senior physicians and surgeons attending to difficult cases and guiding junior officers in their work, would help proper diagnosis and treatment of disease in its incipient stage and reduce the need for hospitalisation and the heavy cost it involves. Medical check-ups at regular intervals will prove a major factor in preventive medicine. We have to consider the feasibility of providing for such check-ups in our city hospitals and district headquarters hospitals.

Kindness and Craft of Healing

The nursing care given to the patient, the diet he gets and the sympathy, kindness and courtesy shown by the medical and non-medical staff determine to a great extent the cure or relief obtained by sick people in the hospitals. This aspect of the craft of healing must be well understood and properly attended to by all the hospital staff. The hospital must establish friendly relationship with the patient and his relations and the public generally. This will add to the popularity of the hospital and enhance its prestige and reputation.

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Industries

Industrial Relations in Madras State

SRI V. BALASUNDARAM, I.A.S., Commissioner of Labour, Madras.

It is generally recognized that the prevention and settlement of industrial disputes and the establishment of peace and prosperity in industry depend upon harmonious industrial relations. With increasing industrialisation all over the world, the problem of industrial relations has assumed tremendous importance in recent years. A wise and intelligent policy of industrial relations cannot be brought about overnight. It is the outcome of a slow and gradual evolution. By a process of rapid industrialisation India has become one of the leading industrial countries of the world. Political independence accompained by the First Five-Year Plan gave an impetus to further industrialisation and there is still greater emphasis onindustrialisation in the Second Five Year-Plan. It is of vital improtance that the progress in industrialisation should result in a progressive improvement in the economic conditions of industrial workers.

The causes of trade disputes are many and varied. Where employers representing capital and workers representing labour are brought together in a common industrial undertaking it is inevitable that in their endeavour to promote their respective interests they should come into conflict with one another. Broadly speaking such disagreement arises over the rates of wages, hours of work, leave, bonus and other conditions of employment. It also arises over questions of dismissal, retrenchment and victimisation of workers. A further cause of industrial unrest is the refusal of employers to recognise unions of their employees. The demand of trade union for a 'closed shop' and their claim to have a voice in deciding the methods of production or management of the undertaking often lead to trade disputes. A strike takes place when the workers withdraw their labour and a lockout occurs when the employers close their gates. In either case the consequences are serious and they affect not only the employers and workers but also the general public.

While it is difficult to say how far the State should interfere in the sphere of industrial labour, it is obvious that in India, as in other advanced countries, the State has, to a considerable extent, intervened by legislation and administrative orders for regulating the conditions of employment of industrial workers. Nevertheless, there are still many problems of a controversial character concerning the conditions of employment of industrial workers which remain outside the purview of existing statutory enactments, and must therefore be settled between the employers and workers or between their respective organisations. Experience has shown that owing to the peculiar and delicate nature of the relationship that exists between the employers and workers they do not always see eye to eye with each other in regard to their problems. Herein comes the work of the Labour Department.

The problems of industrial relations are sought to be resolved in three ways, viz., (1) settlement by direct negotiations, (2) State assistance, and (3) State regulation.

It is the policy of the Government to encourage the parties to settle their disputes by direct negotiations. This method which is otherwise known as self-government in industry is not possible without sound industrial organisations. Hence the importance of strong trade unions and employers' organisations and the policy of the Government to encourage healthy trade unionism. It is unfortunate that trade unions in this State except for a few, are not organized on proper lines. Lack of experience in organisational work, inadequate leadership and fear of victimisation by employers have, to a very great extent, retarded trade unionism. The real danger in outside leadership seems to be the attempt of persons of different political ideologies to capture the workers by starting rival unions. Obviously this is not a move in the right direction as far as trade unionism is concerned. On the other hand, some employers by indirect methods sponsor or favour rival unions with a view to disrupting the unity and solidarity of the workers. In spite of all these difficulties, the trade union movement in this State has been a powerful factor in the social and economic field and has influenced labour conditions and policy to a considerable extent. Important trade unions and trade union leaders are generally consulted by the State Government on matters of vital interest to labour. They are also represented on the corporations and committees set up by Government from time to time.

The total number of registered trade unions as on 1st April 1955 in the Madras State was 653 with a membership of 166,384. The existence of rival unions within the same industry and within the same establishment has been the bane of the trade union movement. As these unions seem to have in their mind only their group or party advantage, the welfare of labour has suffered to a large extent. Political ideologies rather than the economic well being of the workers seem to dominate the activities of some of the trade union leaders with the result that the real problems of the workers are lost sight of. The question of providing for compulsory recognition of a single trade union in each establishment is now engaging the attention of the State Government to counter the baneful rivalry among the unions in this State and to provide facilities for collective bargaining

through the medium of joint negotiating machinery.

The employers' organisations, on the other hand, are generally well organised. The main objects of these organisations are to establish and maintain harmonious relationship between labour and capital, to secure proper representation to their members in the Central and State bodies and to nominate their delegates and advisors to the International Labour Conferences, etc. The principal industries, viz., cotton textiles, tea plantations, etc., are well organised and are able to represent their points of view on Labour matters satisfactorily.

It is the policy of the State Government that disputes concerning wages and conditions of employment should be settled as far as possible by the parties themselves through direct negotiations. However, the parties have not so far come to the expectations of the Government in this regard. Very little progress has also been made in the direction of setting up voluntary joint negotiating machinery in industry. Except in a few large establishments, there is hardly any collective bargaining, much less any established disputes procedure between employers and trade unions in this State. The Industrial Disputes Act provides for joint consultation at the level of the industry through the medium of Works Committees in each establishment, but in actual practice these Works Committees have not been working satisfactorily.

The organisation of State assistance to industry is of special importance. The officers of the Labour Department assist the parties in the formation and maintenance of Works Committees and in the prevention and settlement of disputes. Normally the methods adopted for this purpose fall into three categories—conciliation, adjudication and occasionally and in impartant cases, arbitration. The salient features of conciliation work done by the Conciliation Officers can be briefly stated. The Conciliation Officer acts as an intermediary between the disputing parties and tries to bring about a settlement of the dispute. A Conciliation Officer is not an arbitrator and he has no power to impose his decision on the parties. It is undoubtedly a difficult job requiring abundant patience, resourcefulness, tact and aptitude for the work. Whenever disputes are raised by organised trade unions the Conciliation Officer tries to find out the steps taken by the parties for settlement of the dispute voluntarily. If the workers are already on strikes his efforts are directed in the first instance to get the workers back to work, as no negotiations can be carried on with the democles sword of strike hanging over the heads. During a strike the Conciliation Officer is in touch with both the parties to discover and clear mistakes and misunderstandings that may exist. When voluntary settlement by negotiation between the parties fails, the Conciliation Officer calls for a conciliation conference consisting of the employers and trade union leaders and tries to find a common ground to arrive at a settlement acceptable to both the parties. Wherever workers are unorganised, the Conciliation Officer gets into touch with the spokesmen of the workers and tries to bring about a settlement by arranging a joint meeting with the employers and workers' spokesmen. As the principle of conciliation is voluntary, Conciliation Officers mainly use their good offices to induce the parties to come to an agreement without using any element of force or coercion. It is gratifying to note that as many as 113 out of a total of 232 strikes in this State were settled by the Conciliation Officers during 1955 not to speak of the large number of other disputes dealt with by them. Apart from the normal conciliation work at the departmental level some important disputes are also settled at the Government level through the good offices of the Minister.

Of late, demands for adjudication rather than for settlement of disputes by mediation and conciliation have become too common among workers and their leaders in spite of the earnest efforts of the State Government for securing cordial relationship and goodwill established between the employers and labour by a proper understanding and appreciation of each other's problems through direct negotiations and collective bargaining. Where it is not possible to resolve any dispute by conciliation, the Government if they so decide refer the dispute to an Industrial Tribunal for adjudication. For this purpose the State Government have constituted two standing Industrial Tribunals, one at Madras and the other at Coimbatore. The Government have also appointed a Special Industrial Tribunal for adjudicating into the disputes in a large number of plantations in the State. After hearing the parties and investigating their claims and counter-claims, the Industrial Tribunals submit their awards to Government which after publication in the Gazette become enforceable under law and binding on the parties.

Apart from voluntary conciliation and compulsory adjudication, there is also provision in the Industrial Disputes Act for the constitution of Courts of Enquiry wherever Government are satisfied that an exhaustive enquiry into the conditions of any particular industry or into any matter appearing to be connected with or relevant to an industrial dispute is necessary. But this provision for a Court of Enquiry is not generally resorted to in this State. The Government have, however, constituted tripartite committees to enquire into the conditions of employment of workers in Textile Mills, Engineering Firms and Type Foundries and Cement Factories. These committees have made exhaustive enquiries and submitted their reports to Government. Further, the principle of settlement by voluntary arbitration though not provided under the Industrial Disputes Act has been adopted with good results at the request of the parties for settlement of certain disputes, e.g., in the Textile Mills of Coimbatore and the B. & C. Mills at Madras.

While it is desirable to encourage the determination of wages and conditions of employment by voluntary joint negotiating machinery and through State assistance, the responsibility of the State in regulating the conditions of employment wherever necessary by statutory provisions cannot be over-emphasised. The various legislative measures adopted by the State are intended to guarantee certain minimum standards of wages, conditions of work and employment for industrial workers. But they are also useful from the point of view of industrial relations as they narrow down to that extent the sphere of differences and disputes between employers and workers and help in maintaining industrial peace.

Protective measures have been placed on the statute book for securing to labour its minimum requirements. Necessary safeguards have been provided in the Industrial Disputes Act

against unfair labour practices by the employers by restricting their right to take disciplinary action against workers or altering their conditions of service during the pendency of proceedings before a Conciliation Officer or a Tribunal. The Act also requires 14 days' notice before the workers could go on strike or before an employer could declare a lockout in the case of public utility services. The Industrial Disputes Act was amended in 1953 and 1954 providing for payment of compensation equivalent to half the wages and dearness allowance normally admissible to the employees in factories, mines and plantations if they are deprived of employment by the employer on account of shortage of coal, power, raw materials or accumulation of stocks or breakdown of machinery or for any other reason. The employers are also required to pay the employees who are retrenched after putting in a continuous service of one year compensation calculated at the rate of 15 days' wages for each completed year of service besides a month's notice or wages in lieu of notice. The Act also provides for the recovery of monies due to the workers from the employer as arrears of land revenue. The provisions of the Industrial Disputes Act have also recently been extended to cover the working journalists by the Working Journalists (Conditions of Service and Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1955, which aims at regulating the hours of work and conditions of service of the working journalists.

The Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923, seeks to provide for payment of compensation by employers to their workmen on a prescribed scale according to the nature and extent of the loss of earning capacity for injuries caused to them as a result of accidents arising in the course of employment and to such other employees as may contract industrial diseases. The Factories Act, 1948, has kept pace with progressive industrial countries of the West in regard to hours of work, standards of safety, health and welfare of workers. The Payment of Wages Act, 1936, seeks to ensure regular payment of wages to the workers in factories, plantations, transport services, etc., getting below Rs. 200 a month and provides safeguards against wrongful deduction from wages. The Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946, requires the employers in industrial establishments employing 100 or more persons to define with sufficient precision the conditions of employment under them and to make them known to their workmen. The Minimum Wages Act, 1948, provides for fixation and payment of minimum rates of wages to the workers employed in sweated industries which have been specified under the Act. Under this Act minimum rates of wages have already been fixed in this State for the employments in woollen and carpet making or shawl weaving, rice, flour and dhall mills, tobacco including bidi making, plantations, oil mills, local authorities, public motor transport, tanneries, and leather manufactories, etc. The Madras Maternity Benefit Act provides for the payment of maternity benefit to women workers. The Madras Shops and Establishments Act which came into force in 1948 regulates the conditions of work in shops, commercial establishments, theatres, restaurants and other establishments, provides for health and safety of employees, grant of holidays with wages and safeguards against unjust termination of service. The Plantation Labour Act, 1951, is a comprehensive piece of legislation intended to meet the peculiar needs of plantation workers. It aims for the first time at regulating the conditions of work in plantations by way of working hours, leave with wages, medical facilities, welfare measures in the shape of canteens, creches, drinking water, recreational facilities, sickness and maternity benefits, etc. The Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, gives full protection to wage earners against some of the economic risks to which they are exposed. It formulates for the first time an integrated scheme of insurance against sickness, maternity benefit and employment injury applicable to all workers in perennial factories. The Employees' Provident Fund Act of 1952 has benefited employees in six major industries, viz., Cement, Cigarette, Electrical, Mechanical and General Engineering Products, Iron and Steel, Paper and Textiles.

We are now on the threshold of a great industrial future. The Second Five-Year Plan has been formulated with reference to the following principal objectives :—

(1) a sizeable increase in the national income so as to raise the standard of living in the country ;

(2) a rapid industrialization with particular emphasis on the development of basic and heavy industries ;

(3) a large expansion of employment opportunities ; and

(4) reduction of inequalities in income and wealth and a more even distribution of economic power.

The revision of the existing trade union legislation to restrict the number of outsiders to give recognition to trade unions and to protect the office-bearers against victimisation, greater emphasis on direct negotiations and voluntary arbitration as methods of settlement of disputes, increased association of labour with management for improvement of industrial relations and for increasing productivity through discussions in the councils of management in large establishments, with equal number of representatives of workers and managements, extension of the system of the payment by results and the extension of the Employees' Provident Fund Scheme to certain other industries are the high-lights of the labour policy during the Second Five-Year Plan period. It is also proposed to afford protection to the workers in the construction industry, transport services and shops and establishments and to secure improvement of their conditions of employment through fresh legislation.

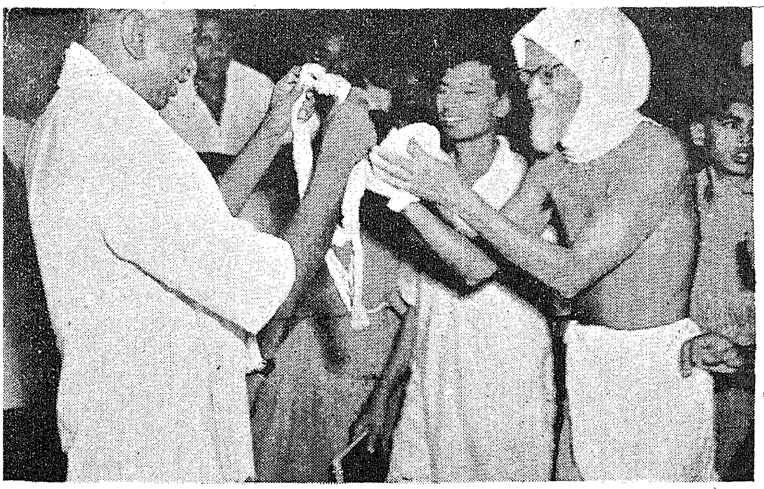
Though economic systems differ in various advanced countries, the nature of labour problems has been more or less the same. It is therefore to be expected that whatever may be the pattern of our economic system in future, we will continue to have the labour problems for solution. However, with goodwill and understanding on the part of employers and workers, it should be possible to find satisfactory solutions to the problems.

Tit-bits

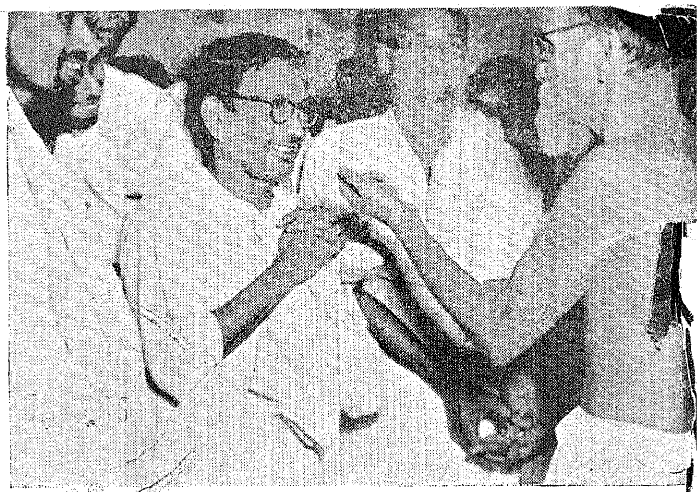
A provision of Rs. 5 crores has been made in the Second Five-Year Plan for rural housing programmes.

The Government of India have so far approved 1,168 road works under the Village Road Development Co-operative Scheme.

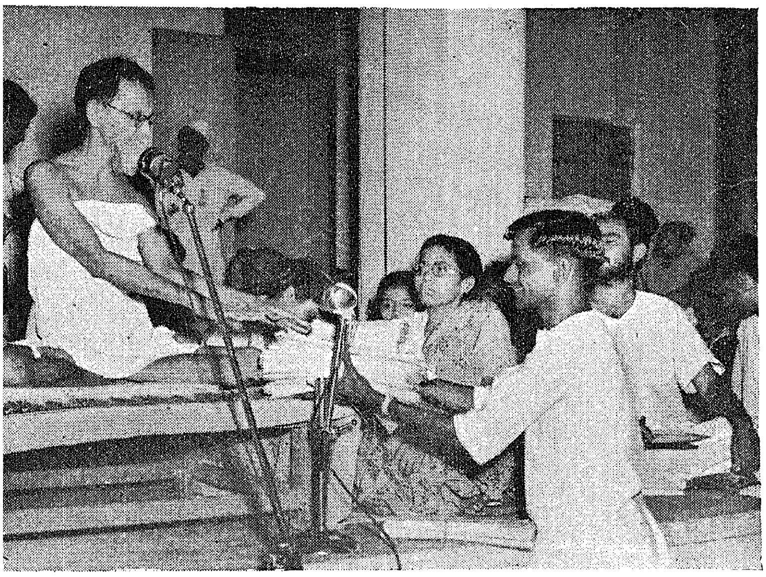
Rubber production in India stood at 44·7 million lb. during 1953 as against 36·0 million lb in 1952.



Chief Minister Sri K. Kamaraj receiving Acharya Vinoba Bhave at the State border, near Tiruvellore on 13th May 1956 when he started his walking tour of Madras State.



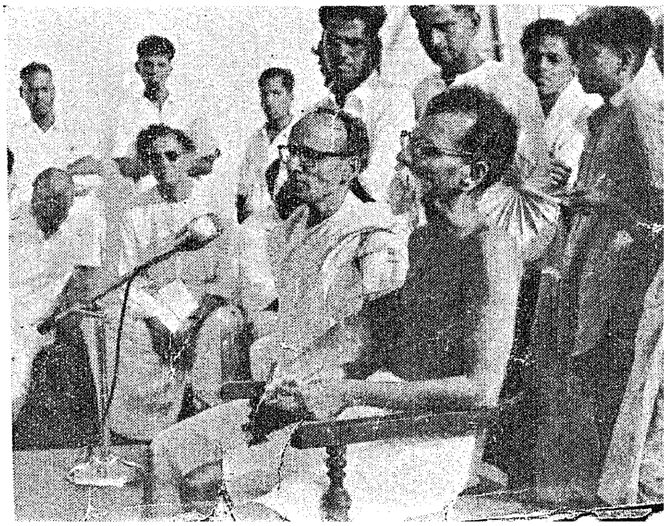
The Acharya talking to the villagers.



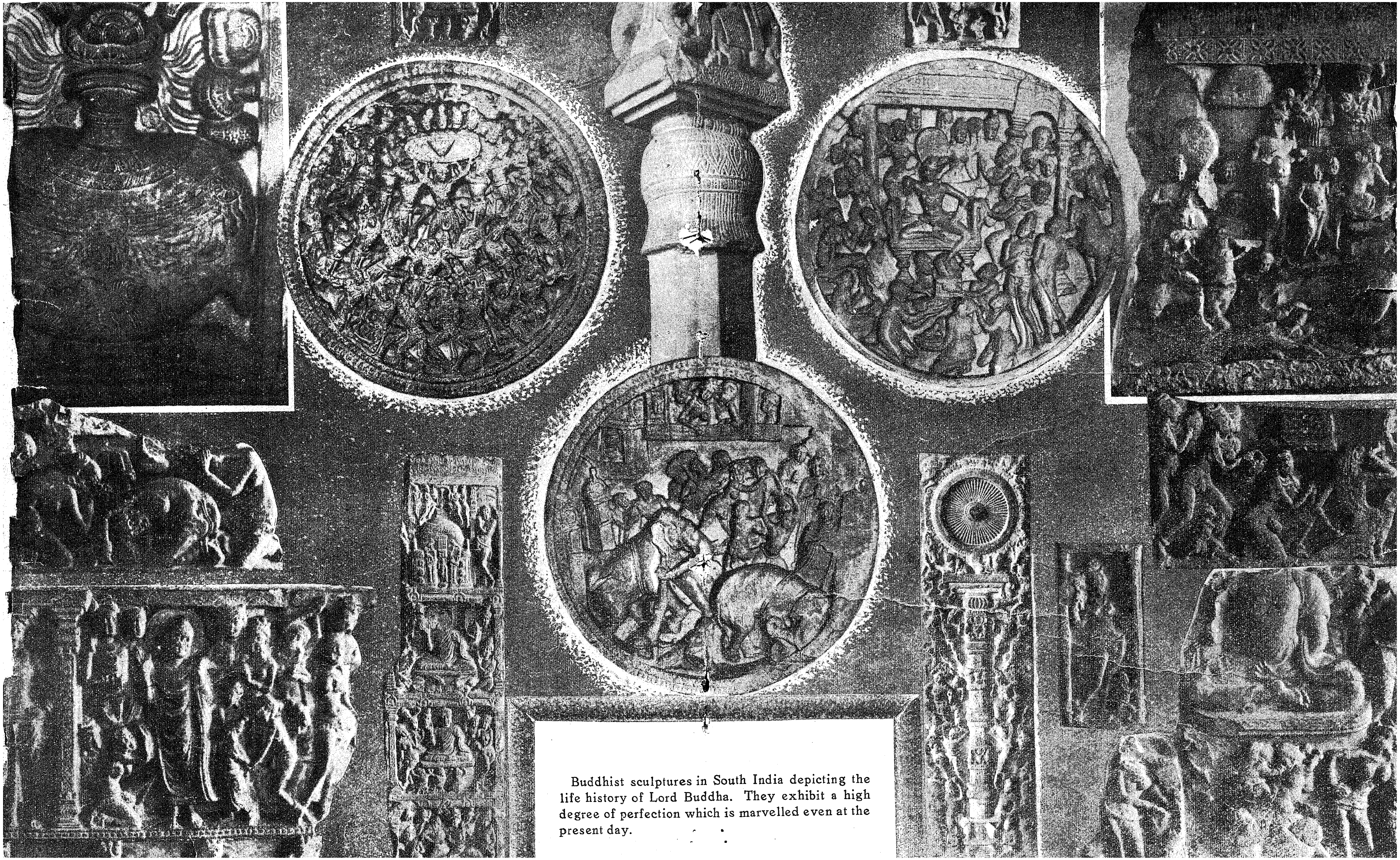
The Acharya receiving *Dhan Patras* from the Tiruvellore Taluk Bhoodan Commit.ee.

At the prayer meeting, Tiruvellore.

ACHARYA VINOBA ENTERS MADRAS



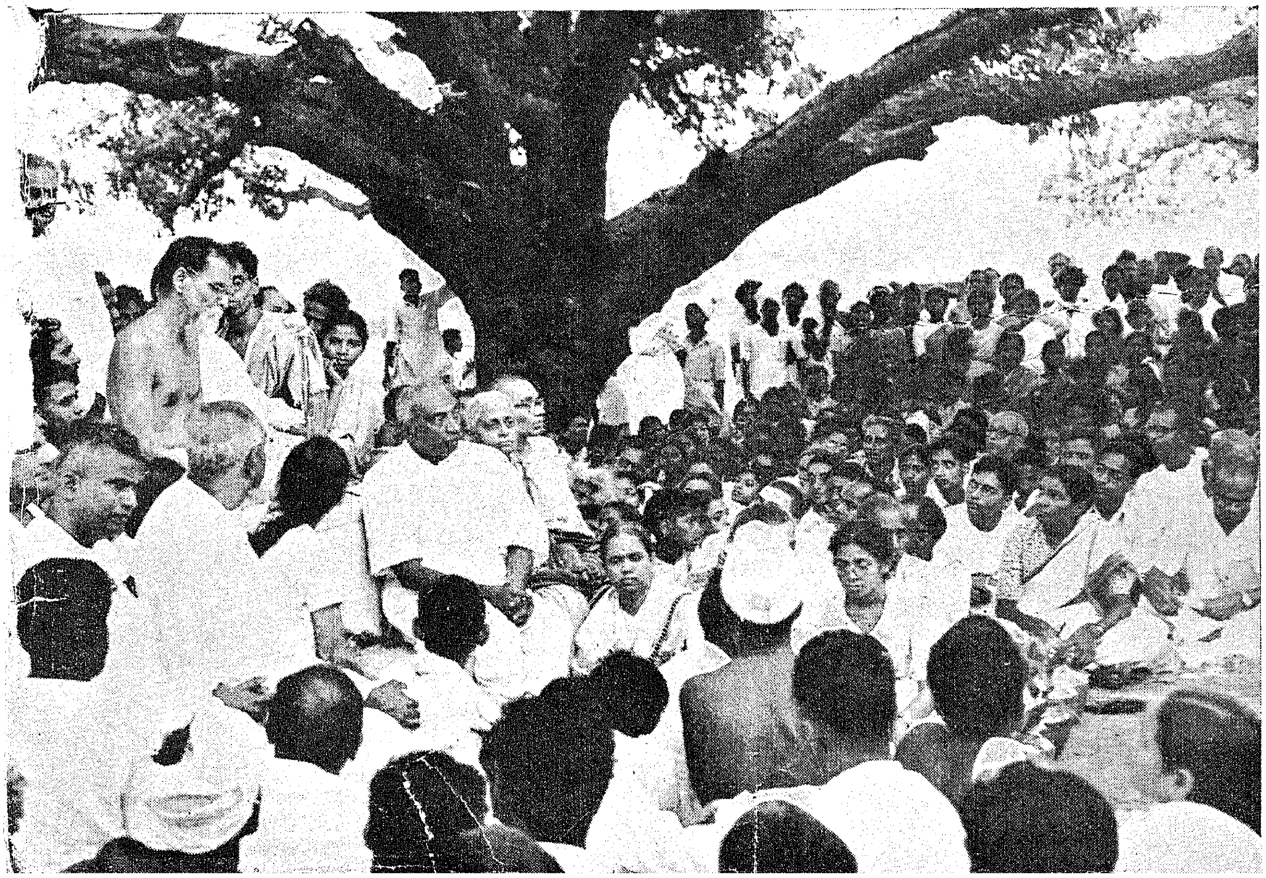
Addressing the prayer meeting, Veppampattu.



Buddhist sculptures in South India depicting the life history of Lord Buddha. They exhibit a high degree of perfection which is marvelled even at the present day.

Acharya Vinoba Bhave entered Madras State on his walking tour and was accorded a warm reception near Tiruvellore.

SAINT ON THE MARCH



Acharya Vinobajee addressing a meeting.

Rehabilitation

Service to Ex-Servicemen

Expenditure of Post-War Reconstruction Fund

After the cessation of the hostilities of the World War II, the Government were faced with the problem of resettlement of ex-servicemen. The Government of India constituted the Post-War Services Reconstruction Fund for the collective benefit of those who served in the ranks or as non-combatants in the Defence Services during the War 1939–46. A share of Rs. 1,86,43,138 was transferred to Madras State in 1946 for being administered by a Committee to be formed for Madras State for the benefit of Madrasi Defence Service personnel.

The Madras P.W.S.R. Fund was constituted in August 1946. The Committee consists of the Governor as Chairman in his personal capacity and five members. The following are the present members of the Committee :—

1 The Minister for Health.

2 The General Officer Commanding, Madras Area.

3 Dr. A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar.

4 Dr. Rm. Alagappa Chettiar.

5 Srimathi Mary Clubwala Jadhav.

The Fund has been rendering help in various directions to rehabilitate ex-servicemen who have returned to civil life. From its inception in 1946 till December 1955, the Fund has given grants to the extent of Rs. 1,19,40,807–15–11 and loans to the extent of Rs. 28,06,255.

The major schemes financed by the Fund are (1) educational concessions to children and dependents of Defence Service personnel, (2) medical facilities to ex-servicemen, and (3) opening of motor transport societies, land colonisation societies and timber and metal workshops for the resettlement of ex-servicemen.

Educational concessions

The Government of Madras sanctioned a scheme for further education of ex-servicemen from 1946–47 and the Government of India undertook to meet 50 per cent share of the expenditure involved in the scheme. The Government discontinued the scheme from 1950–51 as the Government of India's 50 per cent share of expenditure was not forthcoming. The P.W.S.R. Fund met this expenditure in full during the years 1950–51 and 1951–52. The concession was extended to post-secondary but non-University courses of study also. The whole scheme was reviewed again in the light of the fact that most of the demobilized persons who were released from the Army about 9 years ago would have completed their education and therefore the scheme was discontinued from 1952–53. The total amount spent in pursuance of this scheme is Rs. 1,05,832–8–9.

Up to 1948–49 the Government were granting educational concessions to children and dependents of ex-service-personnel. From 1949–50 the Government stopped the concessions to certain categories of pupils owing to paucity of funds and the P.W.S.R. Fund agreed to pay towards educational concessions, including boarding charges from 1950–51 to such of the students who had become ineligible for Government concessions and to fresh cases. The Fund is also meeting the University examination fees on behalf of children and dependents of Defence Service personnel. A sum of Rs. 38,05,172–15–3 has been spent on educational concessions and boarding charges for the period 1950–51 to 1953–54 and the number of students benefited is 41,249. A sum of Rs. 23 lakhs is estimated to be the expenditure for the years 1954–55 and 1955–56 and the number of students benefited would be roughly 18,400.

Medical facilities

The Committee thought that special arrangements should be made for ex-servicemen suffering from T.B. and leprosy. To provide medical facilities for such ex-servicemen, three wards of six beds each were built in the Lady Willingdon Leprosy Sanatorium, Tirumani, at a cost of Rs. 25,000 for the admission and treatment of ex-servicemen. Special wards for ex-servicemen suffering from tuberculosis were constructed in the following sanatoria at a total cost of Rs. 2,09,920 :—

(1) Government T.B. Sanatorium, Tambaram.

(2) Ramalingam T.B. Sanatorium, Perundurai.

(3) Malabar T.B. Sanatorium, Pariyaram.

(4) Mahatma Gandhi Memorial T.B. Sanatorium, Tanjore.

(5) Rajaji T.B. Sanatorium, Tiruchirappalli.

(6) Visrantipuram T.B. Sanatorium, Rajahmundry.

In addition, the Fund is meeting treatment charges at the rate of Rs. 100 per mensem in respect of T.B. patients and at the rate of Rs. 50 per mensem (Rs. 40 treatment charges and Rs. 10 pocket money) in respect of leprosy patients. The Fund also meets the cost of expensive special drugs used in the treatment of T.B. in special cases. A sum of Rs. 5,40,403–2–6 was spent towards treatment charges from 1951 to 1955, and the number of ex-servicemen benefited by this scheme is 881. The Fund also paid a grant of Rs. 1,31,200 for the construction of quarters for the staff employed to look after ex-servicemen patients.

Resettlement facilities

The Co-operative department of the Government of Madras drew up, besides other things, schemes for co-operative motor transport societies, co-operative land colonisation societies and co-operative workshops in which the ex-servicemen were admitted as

members and given employment. The Fund paid loans and grants, as the case may be, for the starting of these co-operative societies. Prior to the separation of Andhra State, there were 13 co-operative motor transport societies, 13 co-operative land colonisation societies and nine workshops. After separation, there are 10 co-operative motor transport societies, six land colonisation societies and seven workshops functioning in Madras State. The first two are under the administrative control of the Registrar of Co-operative Societies and the co-operative workshops are now under the administrative control of the Director of Industries and Commerce.

(i) *Co-operative motor transport societies.*—There are now eight co-operative motor transport societies functioning in the State at Madras, Malabar, Coimbatore, Vellore, Cuddalore, Salem, Tiruchirappalli and Tirunelveli. The societies at Tanjore and Madurai have been liquidated. One thousand one hundred and forty-three ex-servicemen were admitted in all the above societies from their inception, of whom 877 were provided with employment as drivers, cleaners, fitters, conductors, etc., and they were paid salaries and allowances to the tune of Rs. 4·42 lakhs during the co-operative year ended 30th June 1955. Four hundred and forty-nine members had left the societies and sought employment elsewhere. There are 452 members on the rolls of the societies now functioning, of whom 428 are in the employ of these societies. These societies now own 145 lorries, 37 buses and a car (as on 31st December 1955).

These societies were paid a loan of Rs. 18·53 lakhs from the P.W.S.R. Fund for capital expenditure such as purchase of vehicles, erection of M.B. sheds, etc., and the loans are being repaid in 5 to 10 annual instalments.

(ii) *Land colonisation societies for ex-servicemen in Madras State.*—There are now six land colonisation societies in the residuary Madras State as shown below:

(1) Meyyur-Gudapakkam Society, Chingleput district.
(2) Manivliandan Society, Salem district.
(3) Chennakalpalayam Society, Coimbatore district.
(4) Dr. Rajan Nagar Society, Tiruchirappalli district.
(5) Thirumangalkottai Society, Tanjore district.
(6) Jambuvanodai Society, Tanjore district.

Six hundred and twelve members were admitted so far from their inception. Five hundred and two members were actually settled in the societies; 201 members had deserted the colonies due to drought or other conditions. The Fund paid a total sum of Rupees 2,85,901 to these six colonies as grants towards share capital and for purchase of bulls, seeds, implements, etc., and a sum of Rs. 1,52,350 as loan towards the share capital and purchase of bulls. Five hundred and two members were benefited by the concessions from the P.W.S.R. Fund Committee.

(iii) *Co-operative workshops for ex-servicemen.*—The following ex-servicemen workshops were established in the composite Madras State :—

(1) The Strathie Co-operative Engineering Workshop, Madras.
(2) The Kumbakonam Co-operative Metal Works, Limited, Kumbakonam.
(3) The Malabar District Co-operative Metal Workshop, Limited, Olavakode.
(4) The Malabar District Co-operative Timber Workshop, Limited, Olavakode.
(5) The Tirunelveli Co-operative Timber Workshop, Tirunelveli.
(6) The Katpadi Co-operative Timber Workshop, Limited, Katpadi.
(7) The Reid Co-operative Timber Workshop, Limited, Tiruvottiyur, Chingleput district.
(8) The Visakhapatnam Co-operative Metal Workshop, Visakhapatnam.
(9) The Visakhapatnam Co-operative Timber Workshops, Visakhapatnam.

The two workshops in Visakhapatnam were transferred to the Andhra State with effect from 1st October 1953. There are now only seven workshops in this State. Of these seven workshops, four have been reorganised by equipping them with up to date labour-saving machinery out of the funds provided by Government and the P.W.S.R. Fund. The Fund paid a total sum of Rs. 2·64 lakhs. The Committee gave an interest-free loan of Rs. 28,000 to the Tirunelveli Co-operative Timber Workshop for purchase of a log band saw. The log band saw was inaugurated by the Governor on 29th July 1956 when he visited Tirunelveli district. One thousand six hundred and twenty-four ex-servicemen were so far admitted as members in these seven workshops from their inception. Eight hundred and thirty-eight ex-servicemen left the workshops and secured employment on a higher scale, etc. These workshops gave them training and equipped them with the required skill for enabling them to compete with civilian workers and secure suitable jobs. These ex-servicemen's workshops have paid wages to the tune of Rs. 13 lakhs from their inception till 30th June 1955.

Wynaad Land Colony

In our land colonisation schemes, the Wynaad scheme in Malabar district is the biggest. What was but a malaria-ridden jungle until 1945 is now the place where a large number of ex-servicemen and non-ex-servicemen were settled. The area was made fit for habitation by eradicating malaria and the colonists themselves had to clear the jungle so as to make fit the land for colonisation. Each colonist was given five acres of dry land and two acres of wet land, or in the alternative, 10 acres of dry land.

The ex-servicemen form 62½ per cent of the total number of colonists. The non-ex-servicemen including the old inhabitants form 37½ per cent. The ultimate strength of ex-servicemen to be settled in this colony is 2,000. The present number settled is 1,917. The scheme is under the administrative control of the Collector of Malabar.

The P.W.S.R. Fund first sanctioned Rs. 38 lakhs for 2,000 ex-servicemen colonists at Rs. 1,900 per head which is to cover the cost of reclamation of land, construction of temporary huts, domestic expenses, seeds and agricultural implements, construction of wells and septic latrines. The P.W.S.R. Fund Committee has also sanctioned for all the ex-servicemen, as a general grant, Rs. 100 to cover domestic expenses during the second year of occupation and Rs. 250 in order to construct trenches and fences around their lands in order to protect themselves against the ravages of wild animals as Wynaad is a forest area. There has also been some desertions from the colony after some period. The Committee has agreed to meet the charges on account of new admissions in place of the

deserted colonists, especially the difference between the amount paid to the previous ex-servicemen who had deserted and the value of improvements left by them in the plots. A sum of Rs. 50,000 was also placed at the disposal of the Collector of Malabar as a discretionary fund for payment to ex-servicemen colonists who need help owing to natural calamities, reverses of fortune, ravages of wild animals, fire or serious illness, etc. The P.W.S.R. Fund has also agreed to share with the Government one-fourth expenditure on a secondary school in Wynaad area because the ex-servicemen's children are also studying in that school.

The Committee has also committed itself to an expenditure of Rs. 2,50,000 for settling additional 200 demobilised soldiers at Rs. 1,250 per head in Wynaad area. The total commitments on behalf of Wynaad Land Colonisation Scheme is more than 49 lakhs of rupees.

Some of the other schemes assisted by the Fund are the following :—

Technical and vocational training.—With a view to enable ex-servicemen to equip themselves for resettling in civil life and for earning their livelihood after their discharge from the Defence Services, the Government of India started technical and vocational training schemes to impart training to these men in various useful technical and vocational trades. The grant given was towards 20 per cent of the total expenditure, i.e., half the cost borne by the State Government. A sum of Rs. 9,54,114 was given from the Fund and the number of persons benefited is 16,343.

Testing of ex-servicemen for jobs in civil employment.—Lorries were hired from the Police Department and the Civil Supplies Department to test ex-servicemen for civil employment as motor transport drivers. A grant of Rs. 10,043-13-0 was paid from the Fund towards the hire and petrol charges. The number of persons benefited is 1,964.

Rehabilitation Centre, Bangalore.—A grant of Rs. 15,000 was given to enable the centre to give—

(i) grants to disabled and wounded trainees who were not in receipt of a pension or whose cases were pending enquiry award ;

(ii) financial assistance to trainees not in receipt of pensions or P.E.A. when on 20 days casual leave ;

(iii) assistance regarding railway fares to trainees ;

(iv) assistance to trainees regarding railway fares to families ; and

(v) miscellaneous petty grants. The number of persons benefited is 734.

St. Dunstan's Hostel (Dehra Dun).—A grant of Rs. 79,795 was paid towards the cost of training in certain trades of the Madrasi blinded ex-servicemen. The number of persons benefited is 38.

King George Royal Indian Military Colleges, Bangalore and Belgaum.—The Fund paid from 1950 to 1954 Rupees 3,512-4-0 towards scholarships to the cadets in the above colleges at Rs. 65 per annum per cadet. The number of cadets benefited is 18.

Madras State Soldier's, Sailors' and Airmen's Board.—The Fund has given a grant of Rs. 1,00,000 to the Madras State Soldiers', Sailors' and Airmen's Board to enable the Board to grant allowances, etc., to deserving ex-servicemen and/or their families who were in need of them.

Ex-services' centres.—Ex-services centres were constructed at the instance of the Demobilisation Directorate to accommodate and provide recreation and various amenities to ex-servicemen. The grant paid (Rs. 38,117-5-2) was for the upkeep and maintenance of the ex-services centres.

Propaganda and publicity films.—The Fund paid a grant of Rs. 30,080 towards the cost of taking three films for popularising the schemes undertaken for the resettlement of ex-servicemen, viz., (1) Land Colonies, (2) Motor Transport Societies and (3) Workshops.

Rural dispensaries.—The Fund paid Rs. 18,000 for the construction of three dispensaries for indigenous medicine at Ardaveed, Chandole and Mullundrum in pursuance of the Government's decision to provide dispensaries in certain villages which sent exceptionally large number of recruits to the Armed Forces.

Co-operative Milk Supply Union, Pudukottai.—This scheme relates to the opening of Milk Supply Societies and other societies with both ex-servicemen and non-ex-servicemen enrolled as members in Pudukottai area as a scheme of resettlement of ex-servicemen. A grant of Rs. 2,100 was paid for this scheme and the number of persons benefited is 21.

S.I.Ry. Ex-service Employees' Association, Tiruchirappalli.—The Fund gave a grant of Rs. 1,000 to the S.I.Ry. Ex-servicemen Employees' Association, Tiruchirappalli, to supplement its income to run the reading room and the recreation club.

Stipends, etc., to ex-servicemen undergoing Sanitary Inspectors' Course.—Ex-servicemen desirous of taking up appointment as Sanitary Inspectors have to undergo a course in the Medical Colleges for one year. The Government of India were granting them stipends. When they stopped giving the stipends, assistance from the P.W.S.R. Fund was sought and was sanctioned from 1947. The assistance has been continued up to the end of March 1956 both for ex-servicemen and children and dependents of Defence Service personnel. A sum of Rs. 45,096-6-0 was paid from the Fund for this purpose up to 1955 and the number of persons benefited is 104.

Training as Physical Training Instructors.—The Fund has paid Rupees 1,69,721-4-0 for training of ex-servicemen as Physical Training Instructors. One hundred and fifty-eight ex-servicemen were benefited.

Madras Sappers and Miners Boys Hostel, Bangalore.—This hostel is intended for a limited number of sons of Indian ranks not resident in Bangalore with a view to educate them up to the standard necessary for entry to the King George Royal Indian Military Colleges or Boys Battalion. A sum of Rs. 1,45,000 was paid from the Fund to this hostel for the years 1947, and 1950 to 1956 (March) to supplement the income of the hostel to meet the running expenses. The number benefited is 227.

Regimental Hostel, Wellington (Nilgiris).—This hostel is intended to enable promising young Madrasi boys (children of ex-servicemen) to obtain a good early education in English at schools in Coimbatore and to select suitable candidates for the King George Royal Indian Military College, Bangalore, with a view to their returning to the Indian Army as potential Indian Officers or obtaining Army vacancies in the Indian Military Academy.

A grant of Rs. 1,34,650 was paid to supplement the funds of this hostel. The number of persons benefited by this scheme is 68.

Queen Mary's Technical School for Disabled Ex-servicemen, Kirkee.—The Fund is meeting recurring grants at Rs. 50 per mensem per disabled Madrasi ex-serviceman who undergoes training in the school in any of the trades taught in the school. On completion of the training, the trainees are helped by the School in securing employment. A sum of Rs. 67,270-11-0 has been spent on this scheme from 1952 to 1955 and the number benefited is 297.

The Fund has also paid a non-recurring grant of Rs. 25,000 for the construction of a block in the school to accommodate six Madrasi ex-servicemen with their families. This provides them with not only family accommodation, but also necessary equipment and materials to work under efficient supervision. Marketing of the finished goods is done by the institutions and the trainees stand on their own legs.

Indian Hospitality Committee.—The Indian Hospitality Committee at Madras is a non-official body doing yeoman service to the families of ex-servicemen and of serving soldiers, etc. The soldiers' boards ask the Indian Hospitality Committee to make enquiries of ex-servicemen and their families regarding pensions, allotments, concessions and other help needed. They incur an expenditure of about Rs. 150—200 a month for the purpose. The Fund is paying the recurring grants at Rs. 200 per mensem for meeting the expenditure. A total sum of Rs. 10,650 has been paid from 1950—1955.

Training of ex-servicemen as Gram Sevaks.—The Government proposed to arrange for the training of ex-servicemen in State Agricultural Schools for appointment as Gram Sevaks under the National Extension Service Programme and to reserve 25 per cent of seats for them. The scheme envisages grant of stipends to the trainees at Rs. 30 per mensem for 1½ years, half of which will be met from the Defence Services Estimates and the other half from the P.W.S.R. Fund.

Stipends to children/dependents of ex-servicemen undergoing training in Technical and Vocational trades.—The scheme relates to the training of children and dependents of ex-servicemen in Technical and Vocational trades in the Government of India Training Centres under the Ministry of Labour. A stipend of Rs. 25 has been sanctioned by the Fund to the trainees subject to a maximum of 30 trainees, for the actual period of the training. A sum of Rs. 1,903-7-0 was paid by the Fund under this scheme and the number of persons benefited is 7.

Admission of Travancore-Cochin State ex-servicemen as colonists in Wynaad.—The Madras P.W.S.R. Fund is intended for the benefit of Madrasi ex-servicemen. However, when the scheme was originally launched, some ex-servicemen of Travancore-Cochin State were admitted as colonists in Wynaad and grants were paid to them from the Madras P.W.S.R. Fund. It was found out later that 145 such colonists were admitted. The Government of India stated that ex-servicemen of one State settling themselves permanently in another State were eligible for the benefits from the P.W.S.R. Fund of the latter State. A sum of Rs. 2,46,063-10-10 was disbursed to the colonists.

Per capita grant of Rs. 25 to children of ex-servicemen of Madras State admitted into the hostel of the Army Service Corps Centre (South), Bangalore.—The Commandant of the Army Service Corps Centre, Bangalore, applied to the Committee for a grant of Rs. 1 lakh to open a hostel. The aim of the hostel was to provide educational facilities to the children of Army Service Corps personnel between the ages of 8 and 11 who were orphans and destitutes. The grant of Rs. 1 lakh was intended to be put in fixed deposit and to meet the expenditure partly from the interest accruing therefrom. However, the Committee sanctioned only a per capita grant of Rs. 25 per mensem subject to a maximum of 20 boys for five years. A sum of Rs. 1,349-14-0 has been paid up to 31st December 1955 and the number benefited is 8.

From the above it will be seen that the Fund has been giving substantial help in the matter of resettlement of ex-servicemen.

Consequent on the partition of the State on and from 1st October 1953, the Fund has had also to be allocated between Madras, Andhra and Mysore States. The balance at the disposal of the Fund has, therefore, become so very limited that it is practically impossible to undertake any new schemes, or even to continue to finance the existing ones. It is for this reason primarily that the Committee had regretfully to decide to discontinue the grant of educational concessions to the children and dependents of Defence Service personnel from the academic year 1956-57 even though the Committee had agreed, in the first instance, to continue the concessions till the end of 1960.

The Committee has decided to stop assistance to several other schemes also; and this it did with deep sorrow and purely on account of the difficult financial position of the Fund. The help which the Committee has been giving to the ex-service Leprosy and T.B. patients undergoing treatment in the various Sanatoria in the State by way of recurring grants, will also have to be withdrawn in 2 or 3 months' time if no further assistance is received from the Centre.

The Committee believes that this gives a clear picture of the Fund, and expresses its own great sorrow at no more being in a position to carry out its original intentions.

Snippets

Each of the special multi-purpose projects to be taken up shortly in the tribal and scheduled areas, under a scheme of the Home Ministry will be allotted a sum of Rs. 27 lakhs. Of this, Rs. 12 lakhs will be provided from the Community Project Funds and the rest by the Home Ministry.

The Indian Veterinary Research Institute and other centres have evolved effective vaccines to immunise cattle from rinderpest. A Five-Year programme for eradication of rinderpest at a cost of Rs. 2·82 crores is to be carried out.

The total capacity of foodgrains godowns belonging to the Union Government is 2·1 lakhs tons.

Education

New Pattern of National Education

Objectives: The Emergence and Enrichment of Individual's Total Personality

SRI K. G. SAIYIDAIN, Secretary, Union Ministry of Education.

During the last 20 years that this educational movement has been working in the country, a good deal has been written and talked about it and many Conferences and Committees have been held. But there is still a good deal of misunderstanding and confusion in the minds of people about its meaning and purpose as well as its methods and techniques. This however, does not surprise me unduly ; for, when you are trying to establish something new, almost radically new, you have to deal with fixed habits of thinking, with deep-rooted practices and the great power that resides in inertia ! If it was a matter of building a new house of bricks in place of an old one, it will be easy. You could quickly pull down the old one and put up a new one in its place. But building up a new educational pattern is quite a different proposition.

You cannot demolish old ideas and emotions and mental concepts with a pick-axe ; you have to build the new into the old as it were, with infinite patience and care. You have to change the intellectual and emotional patterns as well as the professional outlook of the teachers first and to provide a congenial environment for the new ideas to grow and the new teachers to function effectively. It is they who will eventually transform the educational scene.

The All-India Basic Education Exhibition was inaugurated recently by the President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, in New Delhi. The Exhibition has been organised by the Union Education Ministry to explain the concept of Basic Education and acquainting the public with the development of Basic Education in the country.

Photo shows the President and the Prime Minister examining publications on Basic Education at one of the sections of the Exhibition. Dr. K. L. Shrimali, Union Deputy Education Minister, is also seen in the picture.

No Apology

I say so not primarily as an apology for the comparatively slow pace at which Basic Education has been developing but mainly to underline the essential nature of the educative process. This is often not fully appreciated by the ill-informed critics who are thereby betrayed into wrong judgment or by the impatient enthusiasts who are apt to suffer from a sense of frustration. With the impatience of enthusiasm I have a great deal of sympathy—without its stimulus there is a danger that workers may become lax and self-complacent. But, in formulating policies and assessing results, it is necessary to take a comprehensive and balanced view.

Now, what is this Basic Education ? I wonder if it occurs to many parents or even teachers to ask themselves.—What is not merely this Basic Education but this whole business of Education about ? Why do we send our children to schools ? What is it exactly that they are doing there, how does it link up the objectives in view and how do these objectives link up, in their turn, with needs of our life and our socio-economic situation ? We had inherited a certain educational system that had developed during the British regime. It has continued to work by its momentum till comparatively recently. The plea for a radical change made, from time to time, by many educationists, remained unimplemented because there was perhaps no sense of desperate urgency or the feeling that we could do very much about it, as power resided in a foreign Government.

Objectives

Gandhiji, on the other hand, was not interested in playing with ideas as such—which may provide a kind of intellectual satisfaction—but in putting them into practice and letting them impinge on life creatively. Moreover, he did not recognise that power resided in any one *else*—it came from God and resided in the individual and if the individual was sincere and keen, he could break through the walls of circumstance.

I believe he must have asked himself the kind of questions that I mentioned just now—about objectives and purposes and methods and techniques and the relationship of education with life. He came to the conclusion that the education being given in our schools was not vitally related to life. It was good to learn to read and write and reckon, to read books, to acquire knowledge and information but all these things should be done in the context of work, which formed the wrap and woof of life.

He was specially concerned with life in rural India, which covered more than 75 per cent of the people, and he knew that they were engaged all the time in activities like farming, spinning, weaving, carpentary house-building and many other cottage crafts and industries. While they were doing this, their children in schools were spending all their time in receiving a bookish education which did not equip them properly for what was going to be the main business of their life.

Productive Activity

So, he argued, productive activity or fruitful work must become the centre of education also and the knowledge that the children acquire should not be forced on them from outside but should grow and be motivated by the work that they are doing from day-to-day. Thus was born the idea of a *basic craft*, which was to provide one important centre of correlation with the various studies' taught in school—it was to be a type of craft congenial to the locality and possessing educational possibilities.

It was also recognized—as the idea of basic education developed and deepened—that knowledge could, and should be correlated with the child's physical and social environment also, because they were rich in stimuli and possibilities and could give reality and concreteness to learning. This approach gave a new and exciting yardstick with which to measure the relevance as well as the significance of the curriculum and the items included in the syllabuses. If these did not touch the child's life and interests and his growing craft activity, the presumption was that they were by the grace of age and inertia. There was at least a good case for courageously examining their bonafides and excluding things which did not add to the child's power of action, understanding and appreciation.

Social activity

This was, however, not the only implication of the work idea in education. As the Zakir Hussain Committee pointed out good, honest, interested work, done with efficiency, was basic to the health of the individual's total personality. Socially motivated activity, intelligently carried out, made ideas clearer and mind keener and guarded against that intellectual confusion and self deception which verbalism tends to encourage. Moreover, it was necessary for *social health*—it tended to break down the disastrous tendency to look upon manual work as undignified and encouraged the unlovely tendencies of snobbery and social stratification.

This is the *vision* of Basic Education the star to which its wagon has been hitched. For various reasons—some inherent in any human situation, some implicit in our peculiar objective situation with its limitation of financial and personnel resources—it has not been possible to introduce basic education in a large number of schools yet. There are at present about 36 thousand basic schools in the country as against 2·5 lakhs ordinary primary schools, though it is a matter for satisfaction that a large number of *training* schools have already been converted into Basic Training Schools.

Moreover, many of these schools have not been able to rise to the stature of really good basic schools—though they are steadily and patiently groping their way towards the goal. Considering the teachers we have in a large majority of schools—with inadequate qualifications and training and salaries which are nothing to write home about;—it is no wonder that the new methods and techniques, have not yet been fully grasped. And this applies not only to the teachers but also to inspecting officers and other administrative authorities.

(*Continued on page* 28)

Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Minister for Education, Government of India, in conversation with members of the UNESCO Mission when they called on the Education Minister at Parliament House, New Delhi. Seated on his right is the leader of the Mission, Professor N. Cacciapuoti, Deputy Director of Science Department, UNESCO Headquarters, Paris.

The UNESCO Mission is on a six-week visit to this country. It will discuss with the Government of India the question of equipment to be supplied under UNESCO's Expanded Programme of Technical Assistance for the laboratories of the Western Higher Technological Institute, Bombay, to be established during the Second Five-Year Plan.

Buddhist Art in India

The monks and the nuns, like the Buddha, their Master, adopted an itinerant life and moved from place to place; from caves to rock-cut dwellings.

As the Buddhist *Sangha* grew, the merchants and royal votaries, foremost among whom was Emperor Asoka, endowed the Buddhist *Sangha* and raised *caityas*, *stupas* and monasteries or *viharas*. With corporate life came the monastery, and into the monastery were introduced temples and chapels.

Thus in the cool and peaceful hills, where the Buddhist monks and nuns resorted, arose marvellous Buddhist cave-temples, as Karle, Kanheri and Bhaja in Bombay State and Ajanta in the Deccan. Gigantic *stupas* and *caityas* were built at Sanchi and Bharhut in Central India, Amaravati and Nagarjunakonda in South India. Painting and sculpture which evoke the artist's admiration were enlisted to display the glory of the Buddha and the life of the Master, his past births (the Jatakas) and other edifying legends became their subject-matter.

The Stupa in Buddhist Art

The highest objects of worship for the Buddhist are the "Triratna" or the three jewels: (1) the Buddha, (2) the Dharma, and (3) the Sangha. There are also other objects of worship which, when compared with the "Triratna" can only be described as material or formal, but which appealed more forcibly to the laymen than all the precepts, parables and sayings of the Buddha put together. And they are the relics of holy persons like the Buddha, the Pratyeka-Buddhas the Arhats and the Chakravartins, over which great monuments were erected by a 'grateful posterity.'

Originally there were eight *stupas*: in Rajagriha, Vaisali, Kapilavastu, Allakappa, Ramagrama, Vethadipa, Pava and Kusinara, besides those erected by the Brahmana Drona and the Mauryas of Pipplivana. In addition to these relics, one of which is worshipped in heaven, another in Gandhara, and one each in Kalinga and the land of the Nagas respectively. The *Daladavamsa* (composed about 310 A.D.) speaks of the history of eye-tooth (damstra) relic which was taken to Dantapur or Kalinganagari, the capital of Kalinga.

We also hear of places where the Buddha is said to have left his footprints for the faithful to worship. And in all these places sanctuaries of different kinds have risen and the relics mentioned are worshipped.

In the three centuries before and after the birth of Christ, India witnessed a phenomenal growth of Buddhist art and culture. In the north-west, owing to the impact of Greece and Rome, a hybrid art developed and a complete Buddhist imagery called *Gandhara* was elaborated. Gradually the orthodox Buddhist doctrine underwent change. Popular beliefs, magic and sorcery, collectively known as *tantra*, began to spread among the people and through the *tantra* Buddhism and Hinduism were brought closer.

Under the direct influence of Buddhism a synthesis was affected between the higher and lower forms of beliefs to suit Indian genuis. This produced a very rich sculpture, which is preserved on the railings and gateways of the *stupas* of Sanchi (Bhopal) and Bharhut (Central India), Amaravati and Nagarjunakonda (Guntur District, South India). Some bronze images of the Buddha, dating not earlier than the 2nd century A.D., have also been found in Amaravati and its neighbourhood. From the 2nd century A.D. onwards the image of Buddha became sufficiently popular with the artists to carve or cast and we have to-day a good sculpture sequence of the Buddha image.

A vital and prolific school of Indian sculpture sprang up at Mathura in the 1st century A.D., distinguished alike by remarkable statuary illustrative of sectarian belief and by the common heritage of beautiful figure sculpture, of which the best examples are women, carved on the railing pillars, in the company of birds, flora, fauna, and flowing streams.

The school of Mathura found its fulfilment in the Gupta Age (4th-5th century A.D.) which ushered in the Golden Age of Indian Art. The sensuous freedom and plasticity of the Mathura figures were now replaced by restraint, elegance of form and spiritual expression. The great Buddha figures of Mathura, Saranath, Ajanta, and Bihar are immortal specimens which symbolise the ideals of a whole age. The faces are robed in spiritual ecstasy and the smiling countenance with downcast eyes adequately conveys the divine, compassionate love (karuna) of the Buddha to all beings.

Bronzes of the Gupta period were of equal rank with the best of stone-sculpture and paintings (such as those in Ajanta and Bagh) as for example, the life size Buddha from Sultanganj in Bihar (5th century A.D.), which is now in the Birmingham Art Gallery, and the beautiful Brahma image from Mirpurkhas *stupa* in Sind. From about the 8th century A.D. onwards metal images became specially popular.

Pala School

The development of the Pala school, the eastern school of Taranatha, is seen at best advantage at Nalanda, the importance of which as a centre of Buddhist learning continued undiminished, in spite of the political decadence of Magadha, until the monasteries were destroyed in about 1197 A.D.

(This article is based on Shri T. N. Ramachandran's exposition of Buddhist Art in India, forming a Chapter of the forthcoming book "2,500 Years of Buddhism" to be published by the Publications Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting).

Nalanda has been the richest source of the well-known smooth, black slate images and has also yielded an extensive series of Buddhist bronzes. The importance of Nalanda, as a centre of Buddhist culture and as a source of iconographic and stylistic influences throughout the East, is well illustrated by the close relations that existed between Nalanda and Sumatra-Java in the 9th century, as shown by the copper plate of Devapaladeva in which reference was made to the important monastery at Nalanda built by Balaputra of Suvarnadvipa in circa 860. Nepal and Burma, too, were closely connected with Nalanda. Eastern India, comprising Bihar and Bengal, as one province from the point of view of the development of art, under Pala and Sena rule, and Mayurnhanj, followed the classical traditions evolved in the Gupta period.

Buddhist bronzes, though rare in South India, are occasionally found, mostly in Tanjore district, and they date from the 10th to 15th century A.D. Since 1856, about 350 Buddhist bronzes of the Mahayana, some of which are inscribed, were recovered from the sites of the *viharas* raised in Nagapattinam by the Sailendras of Sumatra during the time of the Chola Kings, Rajaraja I and Rajendra Chola I. Some of these bronzes belong to the early Chola period. (871–1070 A.D.) and a large number of the rest to the later Chola period (1070–1250 A.D.).

Influence on South East Asia

The Amaravati, Nalanda and Nagapattinam Buddhist sculptures and bronzes bring us to a most interesting study, namely, to that of the sculpture of South-East Asia, and of the extent to which Burma, Thailand, Malaya, Sumatra, Java and Indo-China derived their arts from India.

The influence of the Amravati school of Art was felt in Ceylon, in lower and central Siam (Thailand) and possibly in Sumatra. Burma and Siam are still Buddhist in faith, though they have witnessed repeated invasions through the centuries, involving them in much bloodshed and anarchy. The Indian colonies were bound to the motherland by the silken ties of art, culture and religion. In the 5th century A.D. the Golden Age in Northern India under the glorious Pallavas left its marks on the colonies and their culture.

(*Continued on page* 25)

Electrification—Progress

Rural Electrification

The number of villages electrified during the month of February in the variou systems :—

Pykara System	11
Mettur System	19
Papanasam System	22
Madras System	15
Total ..	67

The names of villages electrified with the details of taluk and district ai given below :—

Name of village.	Taluk.	District.
Pykara Electricity System.		
1. Ayigoundenpalayam	Avanashi	Coimbatore.
2. Velur	Do.	Do.
3. Kuppandampalayam	Do.	Do.
4. Vettuvapalayam	Do.	Do.
5. Karattur	Udumalpet	Do.
6. Ramanathapuram	Do.	Do.
7. Nallagoundenpalayam	Palladam	Do.
8. Nallegoundenpalayam	Gobichettipalayam	Do.
9. Kalathupudur	Pollachi	Do.
10. Kalpetta	Wynad	Malabar.
11. Karupellu	Ooty	Nilgiris.
Mettur Electricity System.		
1. Kilanathur	Tiruvannamalai.	North Arcot.
2. Gollamangalam	Vellore	Do.
3. Valayambathu	Chengam	Do.
4. Quilam	Do.	Do.
5. Pudupattu	Do.	Do.
6. Valapadi	Arni	Do.
7. Kallithangal	Do.	Do.
8. Melur	Gudiyatham	Do.
9. Annaithangal	Wallajah	Do.
10. Sathambakkam	Gudiyatham	Do.
11. Alapakkam	Arkonam	Do.
12. Kilvenkatapuram	Do.	Do.
13. Rajapalayam	Do.	Do.
14. Mathigiri	Hosur	Salem.
15. Jeemangulam	Do.	Do.
16. Kadambankurichi	Karur	Tiruchirappalli.
17. Varapaliyam (h/o) Kadambankurichi.	Do.	Do.
18. Moolakatanur	Do.	Do.
19. Kilvaithinankuppam	Gudiyatham	North Arcot.
Papanasam Electricity System.		
1. Kovilur	Srivilliputhur	Ramanathapuram.
2. Chettiarpatty	Do.	Do.
3. Regunathapuram	Do.	Do.
4. Achandaviltan	Do.	Do.
5. Alamarathupatti	Sathur	Do.
6. Karungulam	Tiruppattur	Do.

Name of village.	*Taluk.*	*District.*
Papanasam Electricity System—cont.		
7. Poigai	Tenkasi	Tirunelveli.
8. Tirupurasundarapuram	Do.	Do.
9. Sivanandanoor	Ambasamudram.	Do.
10. Chellapillayarkulam	Do.	Do.
11. Ananjaperumalnadanoor	Do.	Do.
12. Pandarakulam	Do.	Do.
13. Thetharappapuram	Do.	Do.
14. Sankaralingapuram	Do.	Do.
15. Manalur	Sankarankoil	Do.
16. Kulasekaranpatti	Tenkasi	Do.
17. Udangudi	Tiruchendur	Do.
18. Chettiapatti	Do.	Do.
19. Murgathuranpatti (H/o) Malayagavandanpatty.	Nilakottai	Madurai.
20. Chennampatti	Tirumangalam	Do.
21. Doddapanaickanoor	Do.	Do.
22. Krishnapuram	Do.	Do.
Madras Electricity System.		
1. Karalapakkam	Saidapet	Chingleput.
2. Chinnambedu	Ponneri	Do.
3. Palavoyal	Saidapet	Do.
4. Nayar	Ponneri	Do.
5. Pudukuppam	Do.	Do.
6. Pallikuppam	Saidapet	Do.
7. Thirthagimampet	Do.	Do.
8. Tiruvanam	Sriperumbudur	Do.
9. Kavalcheir	Do.	Do.
10. Melmanambadu	Do.	Do.
11. Aryaperumbakkam	Kancheepuram	Do.
12. Mamandur-Vadapatti	Madurantakam	Do.
13. Kothimangalam	Chingleput	Do.
14. Nogunbam	Madurantagam	Do.
15. Vishnu-Kanchi (h/o) Sevilimedu.	Kancheepuram	Do.

Work on a large number of rural extension scheme spread over the entire state was progressing. The following are the particulars of length of new lines constructed and energised during the month in the various systems.

	Length of lines in miles.	
	H.T.	*L.T.*
Pykara System	10·18	23·61
Mettur System	24·36	102·52
Papanasam System	39·10	65·42
Madras System	16·25	24·39
Total	89·89	215·94

In the Madras city a total number of 308 D.C. services with an approximate connected load of 311·31 K.W. were changed over to A.C. supply on a voluntary basis.

During the month 34 extensions were sanctioned by the Chief Engineer for Electricity and Chief Operation Engineers at an estimated cost of Rs. 19,72,700

(*Continued from page* 24)

The last trend of Indian art to influence colonial art is found in the 11th century products of the Pala Kingdom of Bihar and Bengal. Under the spell of Pala art and faith, the early Burmese Kings of Pagan became intimately connected with Buddha Gaya and Nalanda which led to the introduction of a new image of the Buddha belonging to the Sthaviravada School. This form of the Buddha image gradually found its way from Burma into the North Siam where it became the forerunner of the Siamese National School. How the Siamese National School was later influenced by a new form of the Buddha image from Ceylon and from South India is spread over eight different periods of Thailand's interesting history.

The mediaeval period in Eastern and Western India was a period of intense activity in manuscript writing. As the authors of manuscripts wanted to embellish their books with illustrations, the use of miniature paintings came into vogue. The miniature paintings of Eastern India of the Pala period mostly deal with Buddhist gods and goddesses and the art, though simple in composition, is characterised by sinuous lines and subdued tone. Some of the best examples of miniature paintings are to be found in the *Prajnaparimita* and other Buddhist texts of the 12th-14th century A.D.

Full Fee Concessions

The Government have issued orders, sanctioning with effect from the school year 1956–57, full fee concession, instead of the present half-fee concession, in Forms IV to VI of secondary schools, for children of elementary school teachers, employed in Government, local body and aided institutions, police constables and head constables and last grade Government servants.

Cardamom, a Commercial Crop

The Government have notified cardamom as a commercial crop for the purposes specified in section 10 of the Malabar Tenancy Act, 1929, with effect from the agricultural year commencing in 1956.

The Buddha's Sermon on Love and Kindness

He who is skilled in doing good, and who wishes to attain the State of Calm, should act thus :—

1. *He should be courageous, upright in word and deed and mind, be obedient, gentle and humble.*

2. *Contented, simple and undemanding, with few duties, spare in his habits, with senses controlled, considered in his actions and modest, not becoming too attached to the families of house holders.*

3. *He should not commit even the slightest wrong on account of which otherwise men might censure him.*

May all being be happy and secure; May all things possessed of life find deliverance from suffering.

4. *Whatever living beings there be feeble or strong, thin or fat, medium, short, small or large, seen or unseen, those dwelling far or near those who are born and those who are to be born—may all beings, without exception, be happy-minded.*

5. *Let none deceive another nor despise any person whatever in any place. In anger or ill-will let him not wish any harm to another.*

6. *Just as a mother would protect her only child at the risk of her own life, even so let him cultivate a boundless love towards all beings.*

7. *Let his thoughts of boundless love pervade the whole world-above, below and across without any obstruction, without any hatred, without any enmity.*

8. *Whether he stands, walks, sits or lies down, as long as he is awake he should develop this mindfulness. This, they say, is the highest conduct here.*

9. *Having no false idea of the existence of self, virtuous, and endowed with insight, He discards attachment to sense desires. Of a truth, He does not come again for conception in the womb (He is not born again in this world.)*

(The Metta Sutta).

Buddha in Indian Art

Bhuddism was spreading rapidly in India just at the time when communication was established between India and the Hellenic Middle East (in the wake of Alexander). Gandhara, ruled by the Kushans from their capital Purushapura—modern Peshawar—was the region where the sculptural forms evolved in Greece became the basis of the material embodiment of Buddhistic inspiration.

As the Buddhist church grew, the merchants and royal votaries, foremost among whom was Emperor Asoka, endowed the Buddhist *Sangha* and raised *caityas*, *stupas* and monasteries or *viharas*. With corporate life came the monastery, and into the monastery were introduced temples and chapels. Thus in the cool and peaceful hills, where the Buddhist monks and nuns resorted, arose marvellous Buddhist cave temples, as Karle, Kanheri and Bhaja in Bombay State and Ajanta in the Deccan.

The tempo of art activity, stepped up in the 2nd century B.C. Its evidence we see today in the rich sculpture preserved on the railings and gateways of *stupas* of Sanchi, Bharhut, Amaravati and Nagarjunakonda. From the 2nd century A.D. onwards we have today a good sculptural sequence of the Buddha image, carved in stone and cast in metal.

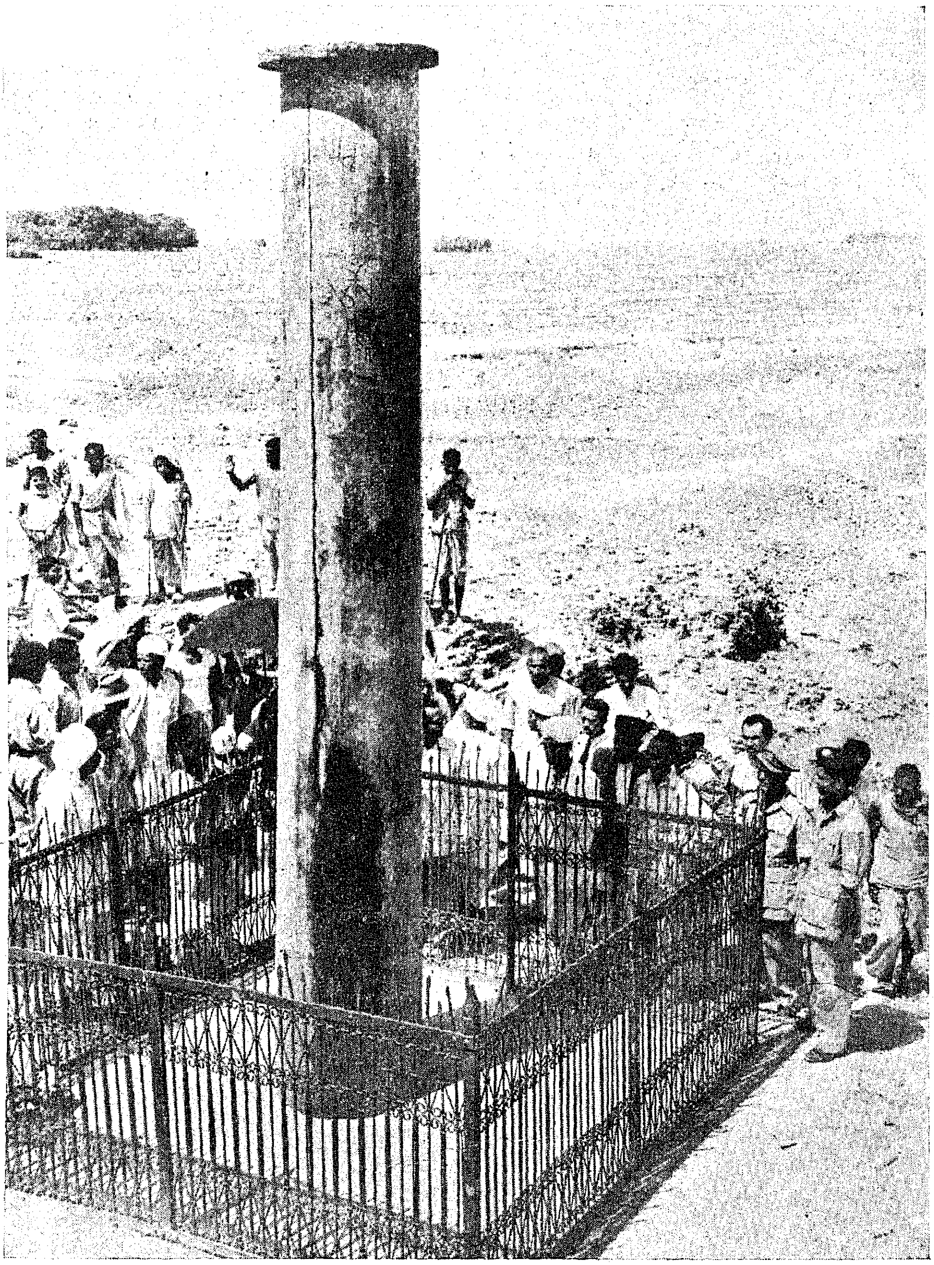
A vital and prolific school of Indian sculpture sprang up at Mathura in the 1st century A.D. This school, formative in nature, so to say, found its fulfilment in the Gupta Age (4th and 5th century A.D.) which ushered in the golden age of Indian art. To the Guptas we owe the perfect visual image of the Buddha type of Being, held as the greatest creation of Indian art. Its examples, the great Buddha figures of Mathura, Sarnath, Ajanta and Bihar represent immortal specimens symbolising the ideals of a whole age. The faces are robed in spiritual ecstasy and the smiling countenance conveys the divine compassionate love (Karuna) of Buddha towards all beings.

Bronze images too in the Gupta Period attained a rank equal in merit to the best pieces of sculpture and paintings of the age. In elegance of form and spiritual expression the Pala—or the Eastern School—shows high standards of bronze Buddhas from Nalanda and Kurkihar (Both in Bihar).

Since the 12th century till the early part of the present century Budhism itself was in eclipse. But the power and universality of Buddha's life and teachings could not but inspire, once again, a number of modern Indian painters and sculptors who have taken up the Buddha theme.

The Buddha, a painting by the well-known modern painter Nandalal Bose.

Buddhist Holy Places in India



The Vice-President, Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, visited Lumbini, the birthplace of Lord Buddha in Nepal, recently. The Vice-President was on a visit to that country to attend the Coronation of His Majesty the King of Nepal at Kathmandu.

Photo shows the Vice-President inspecting the Asoka Pillar at Lumbini. This place of pilgrimage is visited by a large number of Buddhists throughout the year.

From the middle of May onwards and through summer and early winter Buddhist pilgrims from all over the world will converge upon Buddhist shrines and monuments in India—the land of the birth of Buddha.

Of these holy places, the great Buddha himself told his principle disciple Ananda—so the legend goes—four were important which he recommended his disciples to visit.

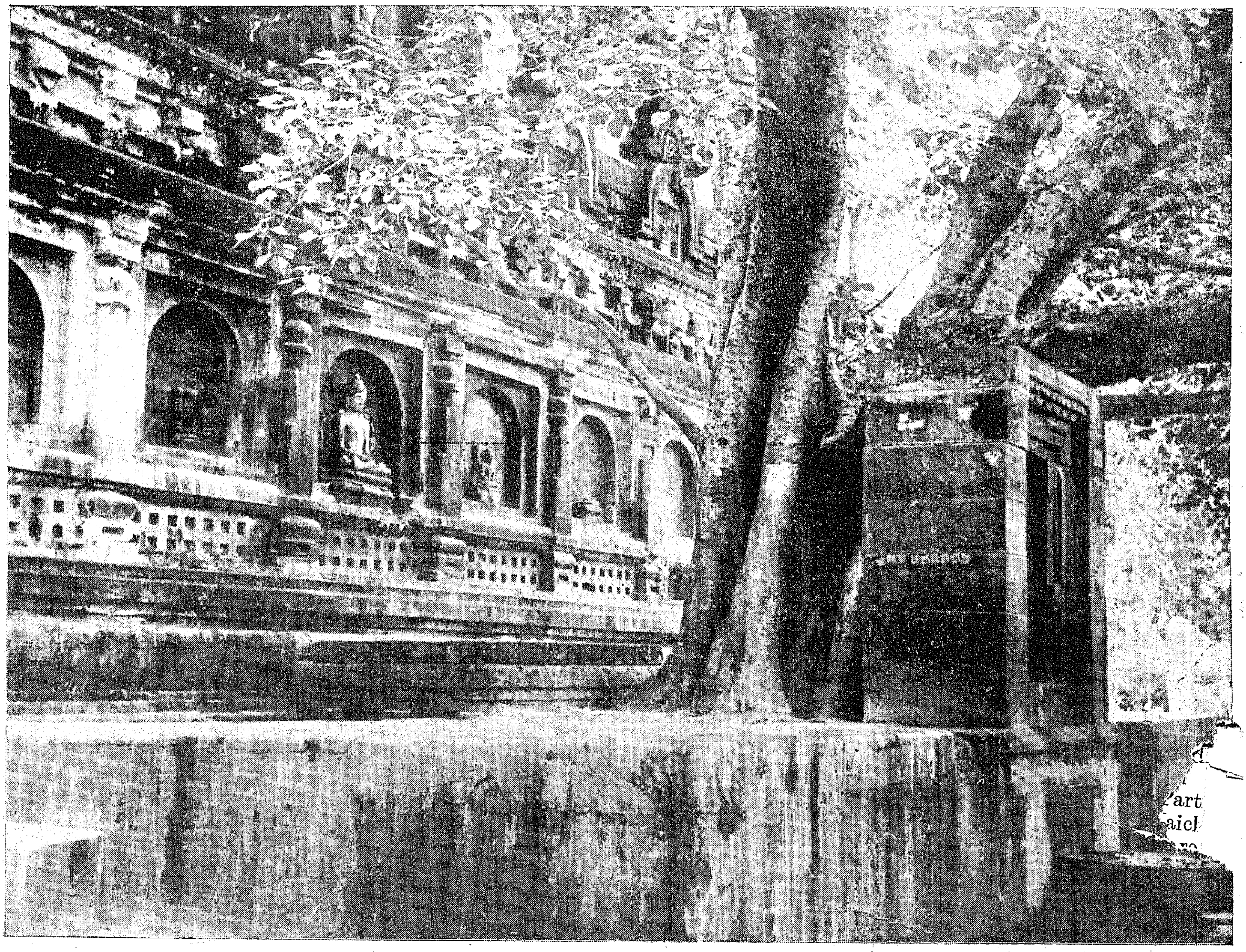
Among these he named Lumbini on the Nepal border where he was born in a lovely *sal* grove. Buddha Gaya in Bihar was another. Here he attained enlightenment under the sacred Bodhi tree. The third was Sarnath near Banaras where he preached his first Sermon to five disciples and the fourth, Kusigram in Deoria district, the place of parinirvana where the enlightened one shed his mortal coils.

In addition to those, four other ancient Buddhist centres, Rajgir, Sanchi (Bhopal), Nalanda and Nagarjunakonda will figure prominently in the 2,500th Buddha Jayanti celebrations.

At Rajgir (Bihar), famous for its hot springs, Buddha spent a number of years after his enlightenment. Nalanda, the ancient University town and seat of Buddhist learning, is a few miles from Rajgir. Sanchi in Bhopal and Nagarjunakonda (Guntur district) in Andhra are famous for their magnificent *stupas* with richly carved railings and gateways and their numerous ancient monuments.

(*Continued from page* 22)

There is also a certain measure of scepticism in some quarters about the merits of basic education, which is discouraging though I am happy to say that, on the whole it is now on the decrease. And, of course, there is the ever present difficulty of finding the resources necessary for providing the essential materials, equipment and books needed for a good basic school. But, with all these handicaps, I have



Rajgir—Here Buddha spent a number of years after his Enlightenment.

seen the miracle happen—sometime in a remote village school in Kashmir, sometime in a compact basic area in Bihar and above all at Sevagram where Gandhiji's spirit still presides, encouraging the selfless idealism and pioneering spirit of its workers and tempering the impatience of their enthusiasm with his own sense of realism.

I can, therefore, say with a measure of confidence, that education, this realistic and socially inspired approach to education, has justified itself and that it holds out the promise of great achievements. Of course, there is one essential condition which applies as emphatically here as elsewhere—the quality of the teacher's mind and personality. The miracle that I have spoken about just now has always been not merely the miracle of technique but of personality.

In the course of the challenging ideas that Gandhiji threw out, he had stated that the children in basic schools should work at a basic craft and, during such work, they should produce articles which might be saleable in the market and from which part of the cost of schooling may be met.

This suggestion aroused a great deal of indignant, but not always well-informed criticism both because it was considered unpractical and because it was considered to be un-educative and likely to turn the schools into "child factories." Since then the debate has gone on back and forth and, while the latter argument has lost ground, the former still holds the field.

To my way of thinking, the second reason is more significant than the first because, in the ultimate analysis, a country must find the resources which are necessary to establish a national system of education. It cannot shirk this responsibility without staking its future on a very dubious ticket.

A.I.R.—Delhi Station.

Buddha's Life Episode in Indian Art

Siddartha's life, its true princely qualities, its perfect purity of a sage and the passionate love of mankind—indeed all life—and the richness of episodes associated with his life proved a perennial source of inspiration to all.

Within the span of one human life, it covered the whole processional movement of man's story: the babe at the mother's breast, the child at play, the youth at his pleasures, then the sickening of the senses and the turning away from the sheltered domestic hearth, the torments of the soul aspiring for release and the final enlightenment and the return to the fold of men to guide and to lead before Mahaparinirvana.

Thus it is that the chisel and the brush throughout the length and breadth of India for centuries never tired of retelling these episodes in holy places, on the railings of stupas, inside monastery caves and wherever pilgrims and devotees could see them and be inspired.

MAYADEVI
(BIRTH OF THE BUDDHA)
Circa 11th–12th Century A. D.
FROM NALANDA, BIHAR.

Wages in Tanneries

The Government have constituted an Advisory Committee to review and refix the minimum rates of wages for employment in tanneries and leather manufactories.

The Commissioner of Labour, Madras, will be the Chairman and independent member of this Committee. The Personal Assistant to the Commissioner of Labour will be the Secretary to the Committee.

The following will be the other members of the Committee representing the employers: (1) Sri Miyan Hajee Mohamad Zackria Sahib, President, Vaniyambadi Tanners' Association, Vaniyambadi; (2) Sri R. Varadarajulu Naidu, Coimbatore; (3) Sri A. J. Sharman, Pallavaram; (4) Sri Haji H. M. P. Mohamed Yousuf Sahib, Dindigul.

The members of the Committee who will represent the employees will be: (1) Sri A. Balasubramaniam, Dindigul; (2) Sri K. C. Ramaswamy, Podanur; (3) Sri M. Adimulam, Vaniyambadi; (4) Sri S. Krishnamurthy, Madras.

The independent members will be the Director of Statistics and the Joint Director of Industries and Commerce, Madras.

A.I.R., Tiruchi: Rural Programmes for June 195^6^

Friday, 1st June 1956—
- Thinnai Kadai (3) Serial Sketch.
- Irulil Oli (Serial feature on Gandhiji's life).
- Namadu Dittam (5) Kalvi: Discussion.
- Market rates and water level readings.
- Topical discussion; weather report.

Saturday, 2nd June 1956—
- Ennarum Tamizh—Song.
- Adult Literacy Class: Tirukkural—Payanilasollamai (Kural Nos. 193 and 194).
- Ennenna Vandalum—Song.
- 'Work of the Harijan Welfare Department in 1955-56'—Talk in Tamil arranged by the Director of Harijan Welfare, Government of Madras.
- Weekly Review of Market rates.
- Market rates and water level readings.
- Topical discussion; weather report.

Sunday, 3rd June 1956—
- Sun-hemp: Discussion.
- Grama Kalakshepa Mandapathil: 'Karaikkal Ammayar'—Kathaprasankam by Rukmani Ammal.
- Market rates and water level readings.
- Topical discussion; weather report.

Monday, 4th June 1956—
- Fowl-pox: Discussion.
- Folk art: Karaha Attam by K. Subramania Nattar and Party.
- Market rates and water level readings.
- Topical discussion: weather report.

Tuesday, 5th June 1956—
- Udai Alankaram (3) Kambali Aadai: Musical feature.
- Sudantira Suriyan—Song.
- Farm Forum: Discussion: Participant: P. Rangaswami.
- Folk songs.
- Market rates and water level readings.
- Topical discussion; weather report.

Wednesday, 6th June 1956—
- Small-pox: Discussion.
- Poocharam: Songs on Lord Buddha.
- Kashmir: Forest Wealth: Discussion.
- Market rates and water level readings.
- Topical discussion; weather report.

Thursday, 7th June 1956—
- Gnana Chuvadi: Isai Nigazchi.
- Farm Forum: Discussion—Participant: D. Durairaj.
- Chakkai Attam by C. Balamuthu and Party.
- Market rates and water level readings.
- Topical discussion; weather report.

Friday, 8th June 1956—
- Thayathu Thangaswami: Sketch.
- The Village Welfare Association: 'The role and use of co-operatives in rural economy'—Discussion.
- Participant: A. N. Arunachala Tondaiman.
- Inda Pattai Kettanaya.
- Market rates and water level readings.
- Topical discussion; weather report.

Saturday, 9th June 1956—
- Adippodu Maraiyai: Song.
- The Adult Literacy Class: Tirukkural—Payanilasollamai (Kural Nos. 195 and 196).
- Sentamizh Nadu: Song.
- Cottage Industries: Karuppatti—Interview with Kandaswamy Nadar.
- Weekly review of market rates.
- Market rates and water level readings.
- Topical discussion; weather report.

Sunday, 10th June 1956—
- Weed-killers: Discussion.
- Varna Mettu: Folk tunes.
- Namakku Vendam: Telling Tales: Sketch.
- Market rates and water level readings.
- Topical discussion; weather report.

Monday, 11th June 1956—
- Sheep-farming: Discussion.
- Folk art: Kaman Dahanam ... S. P. Thangaraj and Party.
- Market rates and water level r... ings.
- Topical discussion; weather repo...

Tuesday, 12th June 1956—
- Sarva Vallabar: Sketch.
- Pachaippasumpullu: Song.
- Farm Forum: Discussion—Par... pant: A. Ramasubbiah.
- Folk songs.
- Market rates and water level re... ings.
- Topical discussion; weather repo...

Wednesday, 13th June 1956—
- Listeners' Letters.
- Poocharam: Songs on Lord Budd...
- Valarum Payir (5) Discussion ... First Plan achievements: Part... pant: K. N. Rangaswami Naic...
- Market rates and water level re... ings.
- Topical discussion; weather rep...

Thursday, 14th June 1956—
- Pattai Kelungal.
- Farm Forum: Discussion: Parti... pant—S. Radhakrishna Naidu.
- Jamabandi: Play.
- Market rates and water level rea... ings.
- Topical discussion; weather repor...

Friday, 15th June 1956—
- Kalavai: Play.
- Irulil Oli: Serial Feature Gandhiji's life.
- Namadu Dittam (6): Suhadaram Discussion.
- Market rates and water level rea... ings.
- Topical discussion; weather repor...

Saturday, 16th June 1956—
- Pon Vilaiyum Nam Nadu: Song.
- Adult Literacy Class: Tirukkural Payanilasollamai (Kurul Nos. 1... and 198).
- Vazhvai Kalaiyakka: Song.

'Rural Housing': Talk in Tamil by M. Thangavelu, Co-operative Sub-Registrar, Tiruchirappalli North (arranged by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Madras).
Weekly Review of market rates.
Market rates and water level readings.
Topical discussion; weather report.

'unday, 17th June 1956—
Gramam Povome: Programme of interviews, folk arts, etc., recorded at a village in Musiri.
Market rates and water level readings.
'opical discussion; weather report.

›nday, 18th June 1956—
Poultry-wealth: Discussion.
Grama Nataka Sabhaiyil: 'Krishna Deva Rayar' Play by 'Sukhi'.
Market rates and water level readings.
Topical discussion; weather report.

esday, 19th June 1956—
Avarukku Ivar (3) Vyapara Dambadigal: Serial Sketch.
Teendamai Pei Ariveero: Song.
Farm Forum: Discussion.
Folk songs.
Market rates and water level readings.
Topical discussion; weather report.

ednesday, 20th June 1956—
Maternity welfare (3) After confinement: Discussion.
Poocharam: Songs on Lord Buddha.
Metric System and decimal coinage: Discussion.
Market rates and water level readings.
Topical discussion; weather report.

'hursday, 21st June 1956—
Gnana chuvadi: Isai Nigazchi.
Farm Forum: Discussion in Tamil: Participant: E. Varadaraj.
Oyilattam by T. Nagan and Party.
Market rates and water level readings.
Topical discussion; weather report.

Friday, 22nd June 1956—
Folk song Lesson.
The Village Women's Forum: Discussion.
Kummi Padalgal.
Grama Padasalaiyil Naladiar (3).
Market rates and water level readings.
Topical discussion; weather report.

Saturday, 23rd June 1956—
Tennamaracholaiyile: Song.
Adult Literacy Class: Tirukkural—Payanilasollamai (Kural Nos. 199 and 200).
Tennaiyin Keetru: Song.
Cottage Industry: Match Stick Manufacturer: Interview.
Weekly review of market rates.
Market rates and water level readings.
Topical discussion; weather report.

Sunday, 24th June 1956—
Grama Panchayat: Kinatradi Vazhakku: Feature by N. Vasudev.
Varna Mettu: Folk tunes.
Market rates and water level readings.
Topical discussion; weather report.

Monday, 25th June 1956—
Authrax: Discussion:
Folk art: Lavani—Participants: P. Velmanidas and T. R. Govindarajan.
Market rates and water level readings.
Topical discussion; weather report.

Tuesday, 26th June 1956—
Kannalappotti: Play.
Kavipadiperumai Seyya: Song.
Farm Forum: Discussion.
Folk songs.
Market rates and water level readings.
Topical discussion; weather report.

Wednesday, 27th June 1956—
Listeners' Letters.
Poocharam: Songs on Lord Buddha.
Valarum Payir (6) Discussion on First Plan achievements: Participant: D. I. Ratnaswami Thevar.
Market rates and water level readings.
Topical discussion; weather report.

Thursday, 28th June 1956—
Tudippadalgal.
Farm Forum: Discussion—Participant: R. Venkitapathi.
Kalyana Sappadu: Play.
Market rates and water level readings.
Topical discussion: weather report.

Friday, 29th June 1956—
Kalyanam Yarukku: Play.
Irulil Oli: Serial feature on Gandhiji's life.
Namadu Dittam: (7) Social welfare: Discussion.
Market rates and water level readings.
Topical discussion; weather report.

Saturday, 30th June 1956—
Desanalam peruka: Song.
The Adult Literacy Class: Tirukkural—Tivinaiyacham: (Kural Nos. 201 and 202).
Onre Kulam: Feature.
Weekly review of market rates.
Market rates and water level readings.
Topical discussion; weather report.

On the Wide Road

Paradise alike for motorists, cartmen and hikers, such wide, straight and asphalted roads are not very common in India. And yet, for a vast country like ours, with not too well-developed transport conditions, the importance of good roads can hardly be overemphasised.

Our road needs have increased greatly now with the expanding economy of the country. Thousands of miles of new roads are needed to open up the villages and help in their development as also to foster trade and commerce on an increased scale.

At the beginning of the First Plan India had 97,000 miles of metalled roads and about 147,000 miles of unmetalled roads. During the Plan period about 6,000 miles of new surfaced roads and 20,000 miles of low-type roads are expected to have been added.

Under the national highway programme about 600 miles of missing road links and hundreds of culverts and bridges including 28 major bridges were

(*Continued on the facing page*)

The Spinning Wheel

When and how the first spinning wheel was made in India is a forgotten story but the undisputed supremacy enjoyed by Indian textile goods for 2000 years, right up to the 18th century, in Asian and European markets is too well known to be forgotten. How the thriving industry was crippled and subsequently destroyed to suit the colonial ends by the then ruling power is also a known fact.

But the tradition of spinning has persisted not only among professional weavers and spinners but among most rural homes where the craft was handed down from generation to generation, from mothers to daughters. In fact, a considerable spinning lore in terms of spinning songs and stories developed in many parts of India.

In the wake of the freedom struggle in the country under the leadership of Mahatma Gandhi a good deal was done to give impetus to spinning, home spun cloth and village industries.

Production of cloth by handlooms in 1953 was estimated at 1,300 million yards. The Government are considering the question of providing increased protection to the handloom industry and of ensuring adequate market for its products. The Village and Small Scale Industries (Second Five-Year Plan) Committee in its report has recommended that production by mills and power looms should be limited to the level already reached, i.e., 5,000 million yards and 200 million yards respectively so that all increased demand during Second Plan could be met by expansion of handloom industry.

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constructed. Nearly 4,000 miles of national highways were improved and provided with one-lane asphalted carriage-way, besides 400 miles of these highways being made fit for two-lane traffic.

The Second Plan provides substantially large funds for road development. A sum of Rs. 55 crores has been provided for national highways. Together with the road construction activities of the State Governments, the National Extension Community Projects and construction through voluntary efforts, at the end of the Second Plan about two-thirds of the target set in the Nagpur Plan is expected to be reached. The Nagpur Plan proposed in 1943 that over a period of 20 years no village in a well-developed area should remain more than five miles from a

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